Is Your Osborne Good Value ?

PROUD TO BE AUSTRALIAN

2

SPECIAL LIFTOUT

AUSSHOP Cattle Dog and return mail order form

NEW ADVERTISING RATES

As of January 1 1984 these new advertising rates apply.

SIZE ISSUES	A3	(A4	1/2	1/4	1/8)
01	$ 80	$ 50	$ 30	$ 22	$ 15
02	10	%	D i s c o u n t.		
04	15	%	D i s c o u n t.		
06	20	%	D i s c o u n t.		
12	25	%	D i s c o u n t.		

DEADLINES FOR ALL MATERIAL

ISSUE	D/LINE			
		JUL	JUN 20
		AUG	JUL 18
FEB	JAN 18	SEP	AUG 15
MAR	FEB 15	OCT	SEP 19
APR	MAR 21	NOV	OCT 17
MAY	APR 18	DEC	NOV 21
JUN	MAY 16	JAN	DEC 19

FROM THE DISK OF THE PRESIDENT

Unfortunately, I was unable to make the last meeting (14th December), but by all accounts, including a flattering letter from a new member, it was a good one. Don't forget the next meeting is on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of January (the 18th) at the North Sydney Council Chambers, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney. The Bazaar (sales of consumables) starts at 6.30, and the gutsy stuff at 7.15. Now onto other matters:

SEMINAR/WORKSHOPS

The Committee is proposing to put on a workshop type session in about March, 1984. The idea would be to use the whole of a weekend, and dedicate half days to particular aspects of the Osbornes. As an example, half a day on DBase for novices, with a second half day for the more advanced. (note: you must own DBase, it is not going to be made available at the meeeting unless a supplier is present, who will SELL a licenced copy). Similar sessions would be for Wordstar, Supercalc and Basic. We envisage a fee will apply for this workshop to cover expenses. Comments are welcomed on this proposal.

BULLETIN BOARD

We have now obtained a licenced version of PLINK II, which is on loan to Horste Leykam to compile the bulletin board software. (Actually, it links different, compiled programmes). Unfortunately we could not hire or borrow the software. After Horste is finished, there is no reason why Members cannot borrow it. PLINK II cannot go into the software library as it is not public domain software. We'll ask Horste to do write up of it's capabilities.

```
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*                                         *
*  WE NEED A NAME FOR THE SYSTEM.........  *
*  ON WITH THE THINKING CAPS.............  *
*  SEND SUGGESTIONS TO P.O. BOX C530,CLARENCE  *
*  ST. REQUIRED URGENTLY.................  *
*                                         *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
```

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

January (late) is going to be a big month. The Membership cards have been designed, and are in the process of being printed. I believe the concept we are using is great, and come late January you'll all have the opportunity to assess it yourself. The cards will identify Members of our group ensuring benefits obtained for the group go to members only. Some suppliers of consumables have expressed an interest to supply discounts to group members (.still being negotiated.). It also serves in the administration of the software library, hardcopy etc.

AUSSHOP/SALES OF CONSUMABLES

This appears to be a great success, so much so that an AUSSHOP director by the name of Paul McGlynn-Worthington has now on become part of the Committee. More info will be published as it becomes available. It is not the purpose of the group to become a reseller, but if we buy in bulk, the discounts are passed on to Members at a price individuals purchasers cannot achieve.

MEMBERSHIP

As of the end of December, there are 495 Members, and 6 on the mailing list (other groups etc.). There are new members daily.

OTHER GROUPS

In the next issue, the contacts for other groups will be published. There are now two new groups, as can be seen on the list below:

```
    Adelaide  ( ADOG )
    Brisbane  ( Talking to Convenor 31/12/83 )
    Canberra  ( COG ? )
  Melbourne * ( I wrote, no reply )
       Perth  ( OSWEST )
      Sydney  ( AUSBORNE )
    Whyalla   ( Newish )
    [ * See   OPENFILE ]
```

I would be interested in news from any of these groups.

EXPERTS WANTED

I have taken names before for these functions, but to be honest, I have lost the list (slap on wrist). Those interested in becoming an advisor please let me know your name, and in which field you are an expert. As suggestions are : DBase II, Wordstar, Cbasic, Mbasic, Supercalc, Hardware, Machine language, BIOS, Executive.

Your name and address will be published in the newsletter for people to contact you directly. The group will cover costs such as mailing etc.

WARNING

Those disks supplied with the Osborne software when the machine was purchased appear to be very prone to failure. It is suggested that they should not contain valuable software without frequently backing them up.

THANK YOU

My plea for cardboard dividers for mailing disks was met with a tremendous response. Thank you Ted Cox and John O'Conner. That's about it for now,

                                                    Ian Napier.

```
/////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
/                                                           /
/  O.S.C. LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT                          /
/                                                           /
/  The Osborne Sales Centre is looking for a knowledgeable person to help with distrubution.  /
/                                                           /
/    The person selected would be the RIGHT HAND PERSON to the general manager.  /
/    The person must be  SELF MOTIVATED, VERY HARD WORKING, and INITIATIVE.  /
/    This is a GROUND FLOOR OPPORTUNITY for an AGGRESSIVE, QUIET, UNASSUMING PERSON.  /
/    If you are intereased please contact Stanly Falinski on ( 02 ) 290 3344.  /
/                                                           /
/////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
```

SHOPPING LIST

1 > A small unpaid staff of one.
2 > A small budget for printing.
3 > 30 days to produce each issue.
4 > Nil or little material comming in.
5 > A regular full time job to keep.
6 > Exams to study for.
7 > A home life to live.
8 > Many letters of critism each month.
9 > Few of encouragement each year.
10> A good psychiatrists.

All the things that go into making your news-
letter and you were wondering why it is late.

At the end of this article you will find the
production schedule for 1984. We are already
behind and the years less than a month old.
One broken down printer is all it took.

As you can see the schedule is very tight
indeed and does not enclude the writing or
origional material to fill in the spaces left
by other material not comming in on time.

Material is beginning to come in though and
it's heartning to see a few of you taking the
time to write. Greg See-Kee has supplied much
material in the past 8 issues, our president
has filled three quarters of a page each
month. Col Paterson has sent in many programs
(Dec 83) and many cuttings of interest from
newspapers right across the world. A new lad
from Queensland has written much for this
issue and I look forward to much more from
all of them.

Now - what about you lot ? It does not take
an english major to write a note and send it
in. It can be about anything at all (within
reason that is). Your application is a good
place to start, but even better - do you have
a favorite program you would like to tell
others about, there are many out there who
would like more software if only they knew
about it, what is dose ? What it won't do ?
How much can you get if for if you shop
around ?

Look at the list at the bottom and you'll see
a list of "Ideas" for stories in future iss-
ues. They have not been written yet, they are
waiting for someone to write them.

The Osborne is good, but not good enough to
work by it's self writing stories (not yet
anyway).

But hang on here, I'm telling you how it's
done not kicking the cat.

STAGE 1:

Begins while the last issue is being put
together.

any material that does not go along with the
general theme of the issue is put aside.
Material that needs checking is put aside.
Items of news and other bits that come in
late are put aside. This begins to form the
body of the next issue. A theme develops if
one was not planned in advance, and as soon
at the current issue is off to the post
office then it's off and running on the next
- and so it goes.

STAGE 2:

All the material collected is formatted in to
columns. The spell checker (The Word Plus) is

run over it for the first time to get out the
bugs. (Yes fokes we do check the spelling -
if there is time)

Then it's put into some sort of rough order.
This could be a lead article, this to Open-
file, this to Programm corner and so on.

PAGE 3:

How much space is left ? What needs to be
written to finish off stories, answer letters
and tidy up loose ends ?

STAGE 4:

A draft layout of the issue is produced in
two forms. The first looks just like a mini
newsletter about one quarter the size of the
finished job. This gives a good idea of how
it will come together. (See Fig 1.)

From this comes the second layout, very diff-
erent from the first. (See Fig 2.)

This gives the actual page layout including
page numbering, advertising space allocated
and shows the gaps and problem spots.

STAGE 5:

Now thats over and we have a good idea where
to go we sit back down at the Osborne and
begin the job of the full formating.

The single columns are now checked again, and
if all is well we begin the task of putting
them into three columns.

Up to date we have had to print these single
columns and paste them up, but since the
problem with the printer has been solved it's
not an on screen job that still takes about
the same amount of time to do, but gives a
better finished job for the printer.

STAGE 6:

The printing begins and at 13 Chr's per
second it's a long and noisy job.

STAGE 7:

On to the telephone. There are advertisers
out there who want to be in this issue, but
do you think they can remember the deadlines
when they are still counting their money that
came in from the last issue ? No of course
they don't.

"Ok, it'll be in the post tonight." That's
what they always say. (I had to chase one of
them for two months - another still has not
sent material he said he wanted in the Octob-
er issue)

And when it comes it"s ready to paste up,
right ? You should see some of the toilet
paper that get's sent in. I did not know they
produced that many shades ?

So it's to work yet again.

STAGE 8:

Now you'd think that it was a simple job to
produce an informative, simple, straight
forward ad for someone ? Wrong. Two to three
hours, yes hours, the job is finished provid-
ing I can find enough material to cut up that
relates to what they want to sell. I still
don't understand how they can spend thousands

producing advertising for other media but
think that you, should only get snail trails
on toilet paper. They would be upset if i
just pasted it in. It might cause some inter-
est though come to think of it.

STAGE 9:

The material that has to be pasted up, is.
The finished sheets are laid out on the floor
and organised to match up with the draft. No
mistakes here or three weeks work is all in
vein.

STAGE 10:

Once it is all in the correct order, connect-
ing pages are taped together to form the
finished job. Now it's not the size you re-
cieve in the post mind you, but some 50 %
larger. Infact each page is produced as an A3
sheet and is then reduced by the printer to
A4.

STAGE 11:

The last real job I have to do is finish the
cover. I've been working on it off and on
over the past three weeks, trying this and
that to make it look right. Then when it
looks right it's the last job to finish it
off with pen and lettraset or what ever let-
tering and shading I can find.

STAGE 12:

I hop on my push bike, newsletter in hand and
take a 21 min trip into the city and the
printer.

STAGE 13:

It's all over bar the folding, taping, label-
ing and posting. Just ask some of the others
how easy it is to do this last step. You will
be getting it in envelopes from now on, one
taste of the folding, taping and labeling was
enough for the rest of the committee.

Then it's post them off at least a week prior
to the next meeting (not all the time I'm sad
to say)

AND THATS ALL THERE IS TO IT - JUST IN TIME
TO START THE NEXT ISSUE

Three weeks, late nights (at least two all
night sessions at the end - it's 2.59:49 now
and only half the issue has been printed)

I also have a second monthly church news-
letter to produce (this one has a working
committee to spread the load but little mat-
erial and even less advertising) and two
mailings, one second monthly and the other
quarterly. As you might guess they all come
together once a quarter making life hell. But
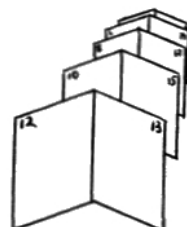I like it or I would not be putting up with
it.

FIG 1.

S C C COMPUTING

TELEPHONE (02) 290 3344
ASK FOR
Stanley or Mr Kerry Salt.

SERVICE FOR YOUR OSBORNE 1

Professionally executed, expert repairs & service for your Osborne 1 including full backup and after sales service.

UPGRADES

** SCREEN PACK (80 - 104 Column) $ 350.00 inc tax.
** DOUBLE DENSITY (185 K / Drive) $ 280.00 inc tax.

****** SERVICE CONTRACTS ******

12 Month contract including a loan machine during servicing.
only $ 295.00

COMMUNICATIONS

CICADA 300 DATA MODEM		CICADA 300T DATA MODEM
	$ 195.00	P.O.A.
with cable	$ 230.00	P.O.A.
TELESPLITTER	$ 25.00	P.O.A.
COMPLETE SYSTEM	$ 270.00	P.O.A.
	inc tax.	

Communications software (Terminal emulator and RCP/M Protocol) $ 20.00

OSBORNE COM-PAC
(2 only left)
$ 350.00
inc AMCALL software and tax.

PRINTERS

DOT MATRIX PRINTERS

		R.R.P.	OUR PRICE
CP - 80	-	$ 475.00 -	$ 419.00
CITOH 8510	-	$ 1099.00 -	$ 950.00
CITOH 1550	-	$ 1499.00 -	$ 1250.00
FACIT 4510	-	$ 1199.00 -	$ 990.00

DAISY WHEEL PRINTERS

Brother HR 1	-	$ 1799.00 -	$ 1199.00
HR 15	-	$ 845.00 -	$ 785.00
DAISY WHEELS	-	$ 28.00 -	$ 25.00
RIBBONS FROM	-	$ 8.00 -	$ 7.00

TYPE WRITERS (inc interface)

Olivetti Praxis 40 $ 899.00 - $ 760.00
Olivetti Praxis 41 $ 1299.00 - $ 950.00
(Interface cables made up to suit $ 48.00 for all the above)

AUSSCC184

ORDER FORM

COMMUNICATIONS	QUANT	DOT MATRIX PRINTERS	QUANT
CICADA 300 DATA MODEM	[ ]	CP - 80 -	[ ]
CICADA 300T DATA MODEM	[ ]	CITOH 8510 -	[ ]
OSBORNE COM-PAC	[ ]	CITOH 1550 -	[ ]
		FACIT 4510 -	[ ]
UPGRADES			
SCREEN PACK	[ ]	DAISY WHEEL PRINTERS	
DOUBLE DENSITY	[ ]	Brother HR 1	[ ]
		HR 15	[ ]
		DAISY WHEELS	[ ]
SERVICE		RIBBONS	[ ]
OSBORNE 1	[ ]	TYPE WRITERS	
EXECUTIVE 1	[ ]		
		Olivetti Praxis 40	[ ]
SERVICE CONTRACT	[ ]	Olivetti Praxis 41	[ ]

Name

Address

City   State   Post Code

(__)   Please make Cheque/Money Order
STD   Telephone   payable to : S.C.C. Computing.

BANK CARD Signature Required
[496] [_] [_] [_ _ _ _]

FIG 2.

| 16. DELTA
NEW YEAR SALE

KAYPRO II
KAYPRO 8

WEST WORD
SUPER SALE | AUSBORNE ─────
User Group ─────
NEWSLETTER ──────
V1 No 8 ──────

COMPUTER
MAZE | 14. AUSSHOP

T SHIRTS
DISKS
CLEANING KITS
MON DAPS
AMERICAN TELEPHONE
ADAPTORS.

MAIL ORDER FORM | 3. HOW TO PRODUCE
A NEWSLETTER ?
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... .
.... | 12. S.C.C. | 5. BENCH TESTS
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| 2. INDEX COMMITTE
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... .
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.... | 15. OPEN FILE.
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... ...
... .
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.. ..
....
... .
.... | 4. S.C.C.

PRINTERS
A.C.T.
HARD DISK DRIVED
EXECUTIVES
dBASE II
TUTOR & ZIP
QUICK CODE
The WORD Plus | 13.
....
... ...
... .
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... .
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....
... . | 6. AUSSHOP

PRINTER STANDS
MONITOR STANDS
SUPERCALC
POCKET GUIDE
PRINTER PAPER
MAILING LABELS | 11.
....
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AUSBORNE NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE FOR 1984.

MONTH	PHOTO TYPE	PASTE UP	PRINTER	MAIL LAB ENVELOPE	POST	MEETING– & D/LINE	MONTH
JAN	19/12/83	24/12/83 – 25/12/83	28/12/83 – 30/12/83	01/01/84	04/01/84	18/01/84	JAN84
FEB *	16/01/84	21/01/84 – 22/01/84	23/01/84 – 27/01/84	29/01/84	01/02/84	15/02/84	FEB
MAR	20/02/84	25/02/84 – 26/02/84	27/02/84 – 02/03/84	04/03/84	07/03/84	21/03/84	MAR
APR *	19/03/84	24/03/84 – 25/03/84	26/03/84 – 30/03/84	01/04/84	04/04/84	18/04/84	APR
MAY	16/04/84	21/04/84 – 22/04/84	23/04/84 – 27/04/84	29/04/84	02/05/84	16/05/84	MAY
JUN *	21/05/84	26/05/84 – 27/05/84	28/05/84 – 01/06/84	03/06/84	06/06/84	20/06/84	JUN
JUL	18/06/84	23/06/84 – 24/06/84	25/06/84 – 29/06/84	01/07/84	04/07/84	18/07/84	JUL
AUG *	16/07/84	21/07/84 – 22/07/84	23/07/84 – 27/07/84	29/07/84	01/08/84	15/08/84	AUG
SEP	20/08/84	25/08/84 – 26/08/84	27/08/84 – 31/08/84	02/09/84	05/09/84	19/09/84	SEP
OCT *	17/09/84	22/09/84 – 23/09/84	24/09/84 – 28/09/84	30/09/84	03/10/84	17/10/84	OCT
NOV	22/10/84	27/10/84 – 28/10/84	29/10/84 – 02/11/84	04/11/84	07/11/84	21/11/84	NOV
DEC *	19/11/84	24/11/84 – 25/11/84	26/11/84 – 30/11/84	02/12/84	05/12/84	19/12/84	DEC
JAN	17/11/84	22/11/84 – 23/11/84	24/11/84 – 28/11/84	30/12/84	02/01/85	16/01/85	JAN85

POSSIBLE MAJOR CONTENT LISTING FOR 1984

MONTH	DETAILS
JAN	IS YOUR OSBORNE VALUE FOR MONEY ? – Bench tests on 21 other micros. Bench test program's
FEB	PART 1 – VDU's How safe are they ? How can I protect myself and my family from any dangers ?
MAR	WORD STAR HELPERS – Spell, Grammar, Punctuation & Style checkers. Math overlay.
APR	DATA BASE PROGRAMS – dBASE II, Card Box,
MAY	OTHER LANGUAGES FOR YOUR OSBORNE – Pascal, Cobal,
JUN	COMMUNICATIONS – Amcall, Modem7, Yam, Bstam, Oterm4,
JUL	WARMING YOUR WINTER NIGHTS – Programs, Programs, Programs.
AUG	THE EXECUTIVE – Value for money ?
SEP	GRAPHICS – Osboard, dGRAPH,
OCT	SPREAD SHEETS – Super Calc, VisiCalc, CalcStar, Multiplan
NOV	??
DEC	??
JAN	BONUS CHRISTMAS LIFTOUT OF PROGRAMS YOU CAN USE.

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* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*                                                                                   *
*  All listings are subject to change depending on material forth comming from you, the members.  *
*  If you have any thing you would like to say on any of the  programs above than drop a disk or if  *
*  you have comm's then ring it through between 11pm and 6am most nights on (02) 560 5681.  *
*  [ See details this issue on how to ]                                              *
*                                                                                   *
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
```

6
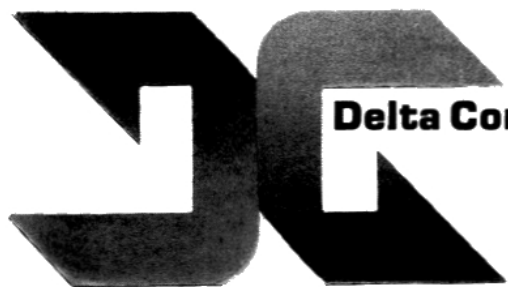
Delta Computer Systems Pty. Ltd.
Phone 705 6636

WORD –PAC (Complete) $250.00

Word –pac items sold individually.

SPELLGUARD	$ 90.00
DOCUMATE/PLUS	$ 40.00
GRAMMATIK	$ 70.00
MATHSTAR	$ 40.00
FOOTNOTE	$ 70.00

Is your Osborne good value?

The Table below is part of a much larger Supercalc file, maintained by the author for his own personal interest.

"Benchtesting" is similar to measuring the performance of a motor vechicle. It does not tell us if a machine is the best suited for a particular person or particular use. However, it enables a comparison between different brands and models.

The benchmarks, BM1, BM2,.... to BM8, are use internationally. They test the use of the CPU with Microsoft Basic, and the various aspects of this language. The exceptions are noted below. The other tests are not so well known, but are inluded for interest.

As you can see, the Osborne microcomputer, with its Transient Program Area (TPA) of 59 Kilobytes and banked memory maps, is much faster than most other machines. Most of the others have 56kb or less of TPA.

The Osborne is the fastest low cost business machine on the market, and much faster than any machine up to twice its price. What is remarkable is how slow are some of the well known machines, compared to the Osborne. Compare the speed of any other well known brand such as Tandy, Apple, Commodore or even IBM.

What does this mean in real terms ?? Programs written in MBasic will probably go faster on the Osborne. And programs written in other languages will also go faster. For a test of dBASE II benchmarks, see another table. Again the speed of the Osborne is shown. An end user will spend less time waiting for results from his or her Osborne.

The Average used here is a true average of the figures in the table. However, the magazine, Australian Personal Computer, prefers to add extra weight to Benchmark 8, (BM8). In fact, this benchmark test is weighted ten times more than the figures above. If you use your microcomputer with large numbers of "numbercrunching", then you should use the Weighed Benchmark, since it is also a strong test of mathematical manipulations.

However, most of us I suspect, use the eight-bit microcomputer for more ordinary applications. Hence, the plain average is probably the most useful.

BENCH TESTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, compiled by Greg See-Kee, Nov. '83.   SOURCES/   OTHER

MICRO	AV* (WEIGHTED)	MICRO	AVERAGE	BM1	BM2	BM3	BM4	BM5	BM6	BM7	BM8	COMMENTS NEXT X;END	TESTS	PRIMES
	50.9		22.56											1031
USCD BASIC	11.5	USCD BASIC	5.73	1.3	1.5	2.6	4.0	4.2	11.4	15.7	5.1	APC,NOV81		
OLIVETTI M20	11.5	OLIVETTI M20	9.65	1.3	4.0	8.1	8.5	9.6	17.4	26.7	1.6	POOS,A.BUS.COM.2:1,'83		
BBC MICRO	14.6	BBC MICRO	8.81	1.0	3.1	8.2	8.7	9.1	13.9	21.4	5.1	APC,NOV82		
* OSB.EXECUTIVE	15.0	SORD M23(COMPILER)	10.25	2.5	2.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	21.0	25.0	7.0			
MONROE 8820	15.4	VECTOR GRAPHICS VI	11.83	1.0	3.8	10.9	10.7	11.6	20.5	32.7	3.4			
VECTOR GRAPHICS VI	15.7	SHARP MZ80B	11.20	0.6	4.5	8.5	11.5	13.0	19.0	27.5	5.0			
SHARP MZ80B	16.8	MONROE 8820	11.64	2.1	4.2	9.9	10.5	11.0	20.1	32.0	3.3	APC,NOV 82		
IBM PC	17.6	* OSB.EXECUTIVE	11.58	1.5	4.16	10.7	9.9	10.6	20.3	32.4	3.05	G.SEE-KEE.		742
SORD M23(COMPILER)	18.1	* OSBORNE 1	13.04	1.4	4.4	11.7	11.6	12.3	21.9	34.9	6.1	APC, APR 82		824
* OSBORNE 1	19.9	IBM PC	13.68	1.5	5.2	12.1	12.6	13.6	23.5	37.4	3.5	APC,DEC81		
TANDY TRS 80 III	20.5	TANDY TRS 80 III	13.75	1.0	5.0	13.0	13.0	14.0	23.0	35.0	6.0			
PANASONIC JB3000,M	20.9	HP HP125	14.71	1.7	5.0	12.5	12.5	14.0	26.0	40.0	6.0			
HP HP125	21.5	ICL PC	14.81	1.5	4.5	13.0	13.5	13.5	25.5	40.0	7.0			
MICROBEE	22.0	INTERTEC SUPERBRAI	15.21	1.6	5.2	14.0	13.9	14.8	26.0	3.0	43.26			
ICL PC	22.7	APPLE III	16.24	1.7	7.2	13.5	14.5	16.0	27.0	42.5	7.5			
TANDY III	24.2	PANASONIC JB3000,M	16.38	1.0	6.0	13.0	13.0	26.0	27.0	41.0	4.0	NOV81,APC		
"	24.5	OHIO C2 4P	16.56	1.4	7.8	15.0	16.5	17.8	27.0	39.5	7.5			680
APPLE III	24.7	XEROX 820	17.13	1.7	5.5	15.5	15.1	16.2	28.9	46.1	8.0			
SIRIUS 1/VICTOR	24.8	VIC 20	17.55	1.4	8.3	15.5	17.1	18.3	27.2	42.7	9.9			
OHIO C2 4P	25.0	PHILIPS P2000	17.69	1.9	5.9	15.8	15.7	16.7	29.8	47.2	8.5			
OKI IF8000	25.0	HP 85	17.95	1.8	3.8	16.3	16.5	17.7	30.0	44.8	12.7	APC,NOV 81		1380
XEROX 820	26.1	KAYPRO II,	18.32	2.07	6.15	16.5	15.9	17.0	30.5	50.4	8.2	GS,15/11/83,MBASIC 5.21		
NEC PC 8001	26.7	APPLE II	18.35	1.3	6.5	16.0	17.8	19.1	28.6	44.8	10.7			960
KAYPRO II,APC	26.9	OKI IF8000	18.54	2.2	6.4	16.8	16.8	17.9	31.8	50.7	5.7			
PHILIPS P2000	27.3	NEC PC 8001	18.78	1.7	8.3	18.1	17.8	18.6	29.5	49.2	7.0			
KAYPRO II,	27.5	CROMENCO SYSTEM 3	19.18	1.7	4.6	14.9	17.8	19.4	30.2	41.9	22.9			935
VIC 20	28.7	NEC APC	19.63	1.8	6.5	18.3	18.3	19.3	32.3	52.0	8.5	APC,DEC81=20		
NEC APC	29.2	NEC PG-8000	19.63	1.8	6.5	18.3	18.3	19.3	32.3	52.0	8.5			
NEC PG-8000	29.2	SIRIUS 1/VICTOR	19.91	2.0	7.4	17.0	17.5	19.8	35.4	55.9	4.3			
SORD M23 INTERPRET	29.8	KAYPRO II,APC	20.19	2.1	6.96	18.0	18.0	18.9	34.7	56.9	5.93	APC,3:11,82		
APPLE II	30.4	SORD M23 INTERPRET	20.19	2.5	7.2	18.5	18.5	19.3	35.0	52.0	8.5			
HP 85	32.2	COMMODORE 2001	20.89	1.7	9.9	18.4	20.4	21.0	32.5	50.9	12.3			
EXIDY SORCERER	33.3	COMMODORE 8032	20.95	1.7	10.0	18.4	20.3	21.9	32.4	51.0	11.9			
SHARP MZ 80A	33.7	HP 86	21.65	3.0	5.2	19.4	18.8	20.4	36.5	56.5	13.4	APC,NOV81		
COMMODORE 8032	34.3	HP HP86	21.65	3.0	5.2	19.4	18.8	20.4	36.5	56.5	13.4			
COMMODORE 2001	34.7	SHARP MZ 80A	22.29	1.5	9.2	16.4	22.8	25.6	37.7	55.0	10.1			
COMPUCOLOR II	35.1	EXIDY SORCERER	22.49	1.8	10.0	20.7	22.2	24.3	37.6	53.7	9.6			174
HP 86	36.7	HP75C	22.81	2.6	4.5	21.4	21.1	23.7	39.3	56.6	13.3	APC,3:11,82		
HP HP86	36.7	COMPUCOLOR II	23.63	2.0	10.9	22.4	23.9	25.7	38.7	55.2	10.2			
HP75C	37.8	MICROBEE	25.19	2.7	10.8	18.1	17.9	20.9	39.4	67.3		APC,APR,8		35
HITACHI PEACH	39.5	TRS COLOR COMPUTER	25.25	2.0	11.3	22.2	23.9	27.0	41.5	61.1	13.0			
TRS COLOR COMPUTER	39.9	ZX 81 (FAST)	25.41	4.5	6.9	16.4	15.8	18.6	49.7	68.5	22.9			
TRS 80 I	44.0	OHIO C3 S1	25.60	1.7	13.1	21.6	23.7	29.2	39.6	58.3	17.6			1346
SYSTEM 80	44.0	CANON CX1	26.38	3.0	6.0	21.0	23.0	24.0	41.0	54.0	39.0	POOS,A.BUS.COM.2:1,'83		
CROMENCO SYSTEM 3	44.9	TANDY III	27.60	2.7	10.5	24.3	25.3		47.4	72.5	10.5	ROM BASIC	48	1695 1695
OHIO C3 S1	45.4	CASIO FX9000	28.00	2.5	9.0	24.0	24.0	26.0	42.0	60.0	36.5			
ZX 81 (FAST)	51.2	"	28.01	2.7	10.5	24.6	25.6		48.3	73.8	10.6	DISK BASIC		
SINCLAIR SPECTRUM	58.5	ATARI 400/800	28.13	2.3	7.4	19.9	23.3	26.8	40.7	61.5	43.1			
INTERTEC SUPERBRAI	63.8	HITACHI PEACH	28.25	2.0	11.0	26.0	26.0	27.0	46.0	78.0	10.0			
SHARP PC 3201	69.0	VIC 20	28.38	1.34	8.19	15.3	16.9	18.2	26.9	42.5	97.8	APC,NOV 81		
CASIO FX9000	69.1	SINCLAIR SPECTRUM	30.04	4.8	8.7	21.1	20.4	24.0	55.3	80.7	25.3			
CANON CX1	70.3	TRS 80 I	30.84	2.7	11.6	28.0	28.5	31.3	51.9	81.0	11.7			1928
ATARI 400/800	76.6	SYSTEM 80	30.84	2.7	11.6	28.0	28.5	31.3	51.9	81.0	11.7			
TI 99/4	76.6	TI 99/4	33.66	2.9	8.8	22.8	24.5	26.1	61.6	84.4	38.2	APC,NOV 81		
VIC 20	138.0	SHARP PC 3201	40.88	4.0	13.5	35.5	35.5	38.5	67.0	108.0	25.0			
EPSON HX20	201.0	EPSON HX20	51.51	2.7	15.3	33.1	32.8	35.3	59.0	101.0	133.0	APC3/12/83		
TANDY 100	427.0	TANDY 100	66.06	3.5	9.5	26.5	29.5	31.5	43.0	64.0	321.0	APC,SEP 83		
TANDY 100	434.0	TANDY 100	74.13	31.0	9.0	25.0	29.0	30.0	47.0	102.0	320.0	WHICH MICRO,AUG,83		
SHARP YX 3200 ***	0.0	SHARP YX 3200	0.00											149

TELEX MESSAGE TELEX MESSAGE TELEX

8

TELEX MESSAGE TELEX MESSAGE TELEX

JANUARY 4 1984.

TO: INTERNATIONAL USERS
FROM: DAVID MILLER - INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OCC.

WARM GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

AS A REORGANIZED COMPANY, WE R NOW MOVING FORWARD IN A VERY POSITIVE
FASHION. DURING THE PAST WK, LOCAL NEWS HAS CARRIED POSITIVE ARTICLES
ON THE FRONT PAGES OF THE BUSINESS SECTION, AND WE R COMMITTED TO :

1. REBUILDING THE IMAGE OF OSBORNE AND REGAINING OUR POSITION AS A
MAJOR FORCE IN THE INDUSTRY.
2. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS AND OUR SUPPORT IN THE
TECHNICAL, SALES AND MARKETING AREAS. OCC IS COMMITTED TO FOCUS 80 %
OR OUR RESOURCES AND ATTENTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE.
3. ADOPTING NEW STRATEGIES AND PLANS FOR THE U.S. MARKET THAT WILL
PROVIDE SALES IN THE SHORT TERM, AND A STRONG BUSINESS IN LONG TERM.

HERE IS A BRIEF SUMMARY AND STATUS OF THE REORGANIZATION PLAN THAT WAS
SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. COURTS ON DECEMBER 13,:

1. OCC HAS AGREED TO PAY BACK 15.5 MILLION U.S. DLRS TO THE SECURED
AND UNSECURED CREDITORS, THE UNSECURED CREDITORS ALSO RECIEVE 20 %
EQUITY IN THE NEW REORGANIZED CO.
2. OCC WILL NOT MANUFACTURE OR ASSEMBLE PRODUCTS. OCC WILL CAUSE
PRODUCTS TO BE MANUFACTURED THROUGH CONTRACTS AND/OR LICENSING
ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COMPANIES. WE ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH
THE LOCAL (U.S.) AND INTERNATIONAL PARTIES.
3. THE PRODUCTS THAT OCC WILL CAUSE TO BE MANUFACTURED INCLUDE THE
EXECUTIVE 1, THE OSBORNE PC *, AND THE VIXEN *. THE OSBORNE 1 IS STILL
AVAILABLE.
4. THE EXECUTIVE 1 WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANUFACTURED AND SUPPLIED
THROUGH 1984. ADDITIONAL CP/M PLUS SOFTWARE IS BECOMING AVAILABLE FROM
SOFTWARE VENDORS AND USER GROUPS, INCLUDING A UTILITY PACKAGE THAT
WILL BE FOR SALE. MORE NEWS ON THIS SOON.
5. THE OSBORNE PC * AND VIXEN * IS READY FOR LOT MANUFACTURING RUN,
AND OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT IT WILL BE READY FOR VOLUME SHIPMENT BY MID
84.
6. IN ADDITION TO THOSE OSBORNE PRODUCTS, WE WILL BE SOURCING NEW AND
EXCITING PRODUCTS FROM SILICON VALLEY UNDER THE OSBORNE PRIVATE AND
SEMI-PRIVATE LABEL. THIS WILL EXPAND OUR LINES AND COMPLEMENT EXITSING
PRODUCTS. THE FIRST WILL APPEAR BY MID 84.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR, AND WILL STRIVE TO MAKE 84
EXCITING TO YOU THE USER AND OCC.

BESTS REGARDS
DAVID MILLER
OCC HAYWARD. CA.

.....

Microsoft hotline

MICROSOFT Pty Ltd has appointed Phil Jones as technical support specialist, responsible for maning the company's telephone hotline, a service to deal with general and technical queries quickly and effectively. Jones comes to Australia from Hong Kong where he spent the past seven months as product support manager for Osborne, looking after Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, India and Indonesia. Previously, he spent three years with Osborne in the US working as a dealer support technician and head of the system support group. Jones also will be maintaining Microsoft's user database and authorising returns and updates.
Further information: Microsoft Pty Ltd, PO Box 96, Terry Hills, NSW 2084. Tel: (02) 450 2522.

Osborne gathering

THE first meeting of Melbourne's Osborne users group was held at Malvern City Library on December 4. A distributor of Osborne computers in Victoria, Direct Data, has offered help to the user's group and has already collected 6 M-bytes of Osborne public domain programs for members of the user's group. There would be a nominal charge for copying and the disc supplied. Spares and Osborne catalogues also are being collected.
Further information: Alison West, Direct Data, 1065 High Street, Armadale, Vic 3143. Telephone: (03) 20 6949.

Osborne appoints new distributor in Sydney

By STEPHEN HUTCHEON

THE troubled US computer company, Osborne Computer, has appointed a Sydney-based company to be called Osborne Sale Corporation...

BENCHTESTS, COMPUTER/LANGUAGE.
Based on "Microcomputing, September, 1982,
PAGE 60 with some added results by the
Author, Greg See-kee.

```
140 FOR N=1 TO 1000        200 IF M>L THEN 220
150 FOR K=2 TO 500         210 IF M=L THEN 240
160 LET M=N/K              220 NEXT K
170 LET L=(INT)M           230 PRINT N;
180 IF L=0 THEN 230        240 NEXT N
190 IF L=1 THEN 220        250 PRINT "FINISHED"
```

```
100 REM BENCHMARK 1        100 REM BENCHMARK 2
110 PRINT"S"               110 PRINT"S"
120 FOR K=1 TO 1000        120 K=0
130 NEXT K                 130 K=K+1
140 PRINT "E"              140 IF K<1000 THEN 130
150 END                    150 PRINT "E"
                           160 END
```

```
100 REM BENCHMARK 3        100 REM BENCHMARK 4
110 PRINT"S"               110 PRINT"S"
120 K=0                    120 K=0
130 K=K+1                  130 K=K+1
140 A=K/K*K+K-K            140 A=K/2*3+4 5
150 IF K<1000 THEN 130     150 IF K<1000 THEN 130
160 PRINT "E"              160 PRINT "E"
170 END                    170 END
```

```
/////////////////////////
/       TO ERR IS HUMAN       /
/     TO REALLY FOUL THINGS UP    /
/        REQUIRES A COMPUTER       /
/////////////////////////
```

TIME	SYSTEM	TYPE	CPU	SPEED	OP.SYS	LANGUAGE
661	COLONIAL	SB80	Z80A	4 MHZ	CP/M 2.2	MBASIC 5.2
662	ALTOS	8002	"	"	"	"
662	CA COMPSY	2810	"	"	"	"
680	OHIO SCI	C4-P	6502	2 MHZ	OS65D3.2	Level 1 Basic
742	OSBORNE	EXECUTIVE		4 MHZ	CP/M +	MBASIC 5.2
824	OSBORNE 1	S Density	Z80A	4 MHZ	CP/M 2.2	MBasic 5.2
935	CROMENCO	Z-2H	"	"		32K BASIC,SFP
955	TANDY	80II	"	"	TRSDOS	Disc Basic
960	APPLE	II Plus	6502	2 mhz	DOS 3.2	APPLSOFT 2
1102	KAYPRO	II	Z80		CP/M 2.2	MBASIC 5.2
1160	CROMENCO	Z/-2H	Z80A	4 MHZ	CDOS 2.36	32K BASIC,LFP
1346	OHIO SCI	C3/C	6502	2 MHZ	OS65D	Level 1 Basic
1380	HP	HP 85	Prop	NA	NA	Basic
1500	ZENITH	Z-89	Z80	2 MHZ	CP/M 2.2	MBasic 5.2
1614	IMSAI	I8080	8080	2 MHZ	CP/M 2.2	MBasic 5.0
1695	TANDY	80 III	Z80	2 MHZ	TRSDOS	Disk Basic
1740	EXIDY	Sorcerer	Z80	2 MHZ	CP/M 1.4	MBasic 50
1928	TANDY	80 I	Z80	2 MHZ	TRSDOS	L III Basic
1141	AVERAGE TIME					

```
100 REM BENCHMARK 5        100 REM BENCHMARK 6        100 REM BENCHMARK 7        100 REM BENCHMARK 8
110 PRINT"S"               110 PRINT"S"               110 PRINT"S"               110 PRINT"S"
120 K=0                    120 K=0                    120 K=0                    120 K=0
130 K=K+1                  130 DIM M(5)               130 DIM M(5)               130 K=K+1
140 A=K/2*3+4 5            140 K=K+1                  140 K=K+1                  140 A=A^2
150 IF K<1000 THEN 130     150 A=K/2*3+4 5            150 A=K/2*3+4 5            150 B=LOG(K)
160 PRINT "E"              160 GOSUB 220              160 GOSUB 230              160 C=SIN(K)
170 END                    170 FOR L=1 TO 5           170 FOR L=1 TO 5           170 IF K<1000 THEN 130
                           180 NEXT L                 180 M(L)=A                 180 PRINT "E"
                           190 IF K<1000 THEN 140     190 NEXT L                 190 END
                                                      200 IF K<1000 THEN 140
                           200 PRINT "E"              210 PRINT "E"
                           210 END                    220 END
                           220 RETURN                 230 RETURN
```

TABLE OF TIMINGS, DBASE II BENCHMARK. Based on A'n Microcomputer, November, 1983,
with some additions by the author, Gregory See-kee.

As you can easily see, the Osborne 1 is much faster than most machines.
On the table below, it is by far the least expensive machine listed.

COMPUTER	Final Time	OP. SYS	Drive A	Drive B	Create	Index	Copy	Sort	Index	Find
LABTAM	5.26	CP/M 86	8"	8"	2.20	2.47	3.10	4.04	4.40	5.26
DISCOVERY	6.17	CP/M 2.2	60 Mb	8"	2.07	2.37	3.15	5.07	5.36	6.17
DISCOVERY	7.05	CP/M 2.2	8"	8"	2.26	3.13	3.58	5.33	6.23	7.05
LABTAM	7.17	CP/M 2.2	8"	8"	3.05	3.44	4.06	5.25	6.22	7.17
DISCOVERY	7.40	CP/M 86	60 Mb	8"	2.11	2.44	3.20	6.10	6.56	7.40
MICROMATION	8.11	CP/M 2.2	10 Mb	8"	2.26	2.53	3.50	6.29	7.25	8.11
DISCOVERY	8.17	CP/M 2.2	8"	8"	2.17	3.04	3.46	6.48	7.29	8.17
MICROMATION	8.39	CP/M 2.2	8"	8"	2.03	2.46	3.52	7.05	8.01	8.39
CROMENCO	8.55	CP/M 2.2	10 Mb	W	3.46	6.34	6.47	7.56	8.40	8.55
OSBORNE 1 **	9.18	CP/M 2.2	5.25	5.25	2.29	3.26	4.43	7.15	8.28	9.18
ICL PC30	9.26	CP/M 2.2	10 Mb	5.25	3.15	3.54	4.39	7.19	8.19	9.26
LABTAM	9.53	CP/M 2.2	8"	5.25	3.04	3.44	4.45	7.33	8.52	9.53
KAYPRO 10	10.10	CP/M 2.2	10 Mb	5.25	2.20	2.57	3.46	8.07	8.55	10.10
IBM XT	10.37	MS-DOS 2.0	5 Mb	5.25	4.20	4.57	5.26	7.33	8.33	10.37
IBM PC + EXT	10.51	MS-DOS 1.1	5 Mb	5.25	4.21	4.58	5.47	8.07	9.10	10.51
KAYPRO II	11.20	CP/M 2.2	5.25	5.55	3.34	4.44	5.56	9.03	10.24	11.20
IBM PC	11.52	MS-DOS 1.1	5.25	5.25	4.12	5.10	6.09	8.46	10.13	11.52
DOT	12.47	CP/M 86	3.25	3.25	4.03	5.19	6.47	9.52	11.25	12.47
IBM Display	14.04	CP/M 2.2	5.25	5.25	4.26	5.54	7.34	11.34	13.24	14.04
SIRIUS	17.09	CP/M 86	5.55	5.25	3.37	4.57	6.16	14.42	16.09	17.09
IBM PC	17.46	CP/M 86	5.25	5.25	4.07	5.31	7.08	14.52	16.23	17.46
NEC APC	19.16	CP/M 86	8"	8"	3.01	4.19	6.06	16.56	18.20	19.16
OLIVETTI	21.26	CP/M 86	5.25	5.25	5.05	6.44	9.00	18.08	19.51	21.26

** Tested with double density.

```
ERASE              1.                   APPEND BLANK
USE LABTAM         ? 'PHASE 1'          REPLACE C WITH MC,A WITH MA,B WITH MB,N WITH Z, M WITH X
SET TALK OFF       DO WHILE X<500       DISP
STOR 0.4 TO Z      STOR (X+00000+Z)/Y TO MW    STOR X+1 TO X
STOR 1 TO X        STOR X/Y TO Z        ENDD?
STOR 7 TO Y        STOR STR (MW,5) TO MA
                   STOR MA+ 'THIS IS A TEST' TO MB
                   STOR STR(500-X,5) TO MC
```

```
2.                 3.
?'INDEX'           ? 'COPY'
INDEX ON C TO LABC COPY TO B:LABTAM
SET INDEX TO LABC  ? ' END COPY'
                   USE B:LABTAM
```

```
4.
?'SORT'
SORT ON C TO B:LABN DESCENDING
USE B:LABN
5.
?'INDEX'
INDEX ON M TO LABN
SET INDEX TO LABN
```

```
6.
?'FIND IN REVERSE'
STOR 249 TO X
DO WHILE X>0
STOR STR(X,5) TO Z
FIND &Z
DISP
STOR X-1 TO X
ENDD
?'END'
RETURN
```

What is most noticeable is how fast the
Osborne 1 is, with it's ordinary five inch
floppy disk drives, compared with the much
higher priced machines with their eight
inch disk drives, their hard disk drives
and their 16 bit Central Processing Units.

Some of the explanation is that the dBase
II code has not yet been optimized for the
16 bit computers yet. This slowness of
the 16 bit machines is also true for other
computer programs and languages.

The second explanation is that the operat-
ing systems of the 16 bit machines, CP/M-
86 and MS-DOS, are still slow and clumsy,
compared with CP/M 2.2.

Also, on some machines, the CPU is not
working as fast as the Osborne, or their
transient program area is not as big, or
the implementation of the hardware is just
plain clumsy and inefficient. In this
last category, we can place the Kaypro, as
Osborne-clone, as well a few other Osborne
clones.

In the original listings in Australian
Personal Computer magazine, the later
benchmark tests are weighted so that they
carry much more importance than the early
benchmark tests. In my summation and sort-
ing above, I have corrected this.

The Benchmark tests:

HAPPY NEW YEAR

S.C.C. COMPUTING
1st Floor 93 York Street,
SYDNEY.NSW.2000.
(02) 290 3344

SPECIALS

COMPARISON CHART, COMPUTERS, PRINTERS

COMPUTERS	Wt	PRINTERS	Wt
TOTAL WEIGHTED SCORE	.8	TOTAL WEIGHTED SCORE	.8
Value for money	.8	Value for money	.8
Utility/portability	.8	Utility/portability	.7
Range of users			
Software innovation	.8	Fonts, typefaces	.8
Memory capacity	.8	Memory capacity	.6
Disk capacity	.8	Paper flexability	.8
Processor speed	.8	Printing speed	.8
Graphics	.8	Graphics	.7
Graphics s/w support	.8	Graphics s/w support	.6
Electronic design	.8	Electronic design	.8
Keyboard ergonomics	.7	General ergonomics	.7
Software ergonomics	.7		
Colour			
Sound			
Construction quality	.7	Construction quality	.7
Mechanical Design	.6	Mechanical Design	.6
Disk Compatability	.5	Feed mechanisms	.8

This table was compiled by Greg See-Kee.

The computer section on the left is based on the weighings used by YOUR COMPUTER magazine.

However, the section on the right, PRINTERS, has not been tested.

A first time buyer may get an idea of some of the variables to consider, and the weights to give to the variables, according to their planned needs and uses of the machinery.

===
PIP PATCH
===

One problem which is often encountered with PIP.COM is that there is no convenient method to transfer files to and from several different diskettes without rebooting CP/M and rerunning PIP after each output disk change.

This is especially a problem when some of your archive disks do not contain a system, and also when your system does not allow warmbooting from a single density disk. These patches to PIP.COM add a special command to allow the disk system to be reset, which allows the output diskettes to be changed and then restored to R/W status.

The idea for these patches came from LIFE-LINES, October 1981. This coding of the idea, however, is my own and is placed in the PUBLIC DOMAIN for all to use as they desire.

The useage is simple: When you have finished with an output disk, change it. Then, before doing anything else, let your first command be the single character which you specified in this file to be your reset character. I chose "R". When the prompt returns, all disks have been restored to R/W status.

Also, the opportunity was taken to make PIP give a signon message, to help weed out the old versions, especially v1.4

Additional notes on PIPPATCH mod B

While I was at it, it seemed a good idea to be able to repeat the previous command without having to retype it. This feature takes advantage of the fact that CP/M doesn't bother to clear the console input buffer, but instead just overwrites a portion of it, based on what was typed.

The command to repeat the last command is also specified at assembly time. I have chosen the ! character for this, for no particular reason. If you don't like it, change it !

Patches courtesy of: Lewis Moseley, Jr.
2576 Glendale Ct. NE Conyers, GA 30208
(Reciprocation encouraged.)
PATCH FOR INP: AND OUT: ADDED FROM MICRO-SYSTEMS JULY 83 THIS IS SIMPLE SERIAL TRANS-FER WITH HANDSHAKING FOR LONG HEX FILES BET-WEEN DIFFERENT COMPUTERS RECEIVE FIRST WITH PIP N:FILENAME=INP:

TRANSMIT WITH PIP OUT:=N:FILENAME,EOF:
LOAD BY SENDING PIPATCH.HEX AND THEN USE DDT
DDT PIP.COM

```
IPIPATCH.HEX
R
G000
SAVE 29 PIP.COM

READER    EQU  03 ;BDOS READER IN (CHAR IN A)
PUNCH     EQU  04 ;BDOS PUNCH OUT (SEND CHAR
                  ;IN E)
          org  100H ;program start
          jmp  signon
          JMP  RCV
          JMP  XMT
RCVDTA:   DB   0
RCV:      MVI  C,READER
          CALL BDOS ;GET READER CHAR
          STA  RCVDTA
          MOV  E,A
          MVI  C,PUNCH
          CALL BDOS ;ECHO THE CHAR OUT FOR
                    ;HANDSHAKE
          RET
XMT:      MOV  E,C
          MOV  C,PUNCH
          CALL BDOS ;SEND OUT A CHAR
          MOV  C,READER
          CALL BDOS ;AND ECHO IT TO HANDSHAKE
          RET
signon: lda  fcb+1 ;was a command given on
                   ;the command line?
        cpi  ' '
        jnz  04CEH ;skip new signon message
                   ;if so
        lxi  d,msg1;else give new signon
                   ;message
        mvi  c,9
        call bdos ;write it to console
        jmp  04CEH;join mainline code
msg1:   db   0dh,0ah
        db   'PIP v2.2 INP & OUT',0dh,0ah
        DB   'R-RESET !-REPEAT ',0DH,0AH,'$'
getcon: lxi  h,buff
        mvi  m,80H ;specify max length of
                   ;reply
        xchg ;buffer address to DE
        mvi  c,10 ;bdos command to read
                  ;console buffer
        call bdos ;ask bdos to do it
        lda  buff+1 ;length of reply
        cpi  1 ;just 1 caharacter entered?
        jnz  gobak ;let PIP process the
                   ;command if not
        lda  buff+2;first (and only) char
                   ;typed
        cpi  rptchr;was it the repeat command
        jnz  getcl ;jump if not
; REPEAT command - Restore first 4 chars of
;                  the console buffer to
```

===
PRINTER STATUS WITH/FOR dBASE II
===

The program requires dBASE II ver 2.3b, Osborne 1, DD, ver 1.44. It uses a call to E12DH (E52DH for SD) to check the lst: device status so it may work on the serial interface provided handshaking is used. The example only checks the status once therefore, if necessary, use a DO WHILE loop.

```
PRINTER STATUS COMMAND FILE
* By Colin Kemp 24/11/83
* This program checks the status of a
* printer connected to the IEEE port.
SET TALK OFF
* 45056 = 8000H :  temporary area for
  subroutine
STORE 45056 TO ADDRESS
SET CALL TO ADDRESS
* the subroutine is POKEd into memory
POKE ADDRESS,205,45,225,50,0,176,201
* then CALLed
CALL
* on return 8000H = 0 if printer is OFF,
* deselected or out of paper.
* 8000H = 255 if printer is ready.
* we can then alert the operator
STORE PEEK(ADDRESS) TO STATUS
IF STATUS = 255
RETURN
ELSE
? 'PLEASE CHECK PRINTER'
? 'ENTER RETURN TO CONTINUE'
ENDIF
ACCEPT TO TEMP
RETURN
```

(PIP PATCH CONT...)

```
;                their former contents,
;                echo the old command to
;                console, RESET disk
;                system, and let PIP
;                reprocess it
     lhld  stash ;restore length and first
                 ;char typed
        shld buff+1
        lxi  d,msg3 ;'Disk system reset' msg
        mvi  c,9
        call bdos
        lxi  d,msg2 ;'Repeating...' message
        mvi  c,9
        call bdos ;write it to console
        lxi  h,buff+1 ;get length byte
        mov  c,m ;to reg BC
        mvi  b,0
        inx  h ;get buffer start addr to HL
        dad  b ;point to first free position
               ;in buffer
        mvi  m,'$' ;flag end of line with a $
        lxi  d,buff+2
        mvi  c,9
        call bdos ;echo line
        mvi  c,13 ;bdos command to RESET
        call bdos
        ret ;let PIP process the previous
            ;command again
msg2:   db   0dh,0ah
        db   'Repeating: $'
getcl:  ani  5FH ;convert lc to UC
                 ;note don't use for numbers)
        cpi  rstchr ;is it the user-specified
                    ;RESET command?
        jnz  gobak ;let PIP process if not
; RESET command - make all diskettes R/W
        lxi  d,msg3 ;'Disk system reset' msg
        mvi  c,9
        call bdos
        mvi  c,13 ;bdos command to RESET
        call bdos
        call crlf
        pop  h   ;clear stack
        jmp  53CH ;rejoin command loop
                  ;within PIP
```

TELE TELEX MESSAGE TELEX MESSAGE TELEX MESSAGE TELEX MESSAGE

E TELEX MESSAGE TELEX MESSAGE

JANUARY 10, 1984

TO: INTERNATIONAL USERS
FROM: DAVID MILLER - INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OCC.

SUBJECT : NEW PRODUCT LINES FROM OCC.
ITEM   : DRIVE C: RAM DISK FOR OCC 1

THE DRIVE C RAM DISK IS NOW AVAILABLE. THIS IS A SEMICONDUCTOR DISK IN
A CASE THAT SLIDES INTO THE RIGHT DISKETTE POCKET OF YOUR OSBORNE 1.
INSTALLATION TAKES 30 SECONDS. YOU CAN HAVE TWICE THE DISK CAPACITY
AND PERFORMANCE OD A DOUBLE DENSITY OSBORNE 1, STILL KEEPING IT
PORTABLE.
THIS PRODUCT COMES COMPLETE WITH SOFTWARE AND DOCUMANTATION. IT
RADICALLY IMPROVES THE TIME IT TAKES TO RUN PROGRAMS. THE PRINT
SPOOLER SOFTWARE LETS YOU PRINT WHILE STILL PROCESSING, IT CAN ALSO BE
A HIGH-SPEED LACHE BUFFER FOR TANTOR HARD DISKS. AN OSBORNE 1 WITH A
DRIVE C: WILL OUT PERFORM AN IBM PC BETTER THAN 2 TO 1.

THE DRIVE C: CAN BE ORDERED AS:
    DRIVE C: 348 K
        - COMPLETE AND TESTED
        - ADDS 348 K BYLES OF DISK CAPACITY
        - USER DOCUMANTATION AND SOFTWARE
        - THE APPROX ONLY AUSTRALIAN PRICE $ 1200 INC TAX

    DRIVE C: 192 K
        - COMPLETE AND TESTED
        - ADDS 192 K BYLES OF DISK CAPACITY
        - USER DOCUMANTATION AND SOFTWARE
        - THE APPROX ONLY AUSTRALIAN PRICE $ 780 INC TAX

    DRIVE C: KIT
        - INCLUDES ASSEMBLED DRIVE C WITHOUT RAM CHIPS
        - YOU BUT THE MEMORY CHIPS AND INSERT THEM INTO THE
          SOCKETS
        - INCLUDES 2 PALS (1 FOR A 192 K VERSION)
                          (1 FOR A 384 K VERSION)

        - INSTRUCTIONS
        - SOFTWARE AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE USER
        - THE APPROX ONLY AUSTRALIAN PRICE $ 600 INC TAX

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO BUY THE KIT AND PURCHASE RAMS LOCALLY. THIS
WILL KEEP YOUR COSTS DOWN AND HELP TO SET AGGRESSIVE DEALER AND RETAIL
PRICES.

BEST REGARDS
DAVID MILLER
OCC HAYWARD. CA.

.....

S C C COMPUTING

```
msg3:   db    0DH,0AH
        db    'All disks made R/W.$'
; not a special command, so stash the console
; buffer for later
gobak:  lhld buff+1 ;save length and first
                     ;char typed
        shld stash
        ret ;and back to PIP to process
stash   dw    0 ;no initial command
        org  96FH ;patch PIP to vector to
                   ;this routine
        jmp  getcon
bdos    equ  5 ;cp/m entry point
fcb     equ  05CH ;default fcb
crlf    equ  082EH ;PIP's internal CR-LF
                    ;routine
buff    equ  1ECBH ;PIP's input buffer
rstchr  equ  'R' ;put your choice for the
                  ;reset char here
rptchr  equ  '!' ;same here for the repeat
                  ;command char


================================================
    TITLE SCREEN SIZE SELECT FOR OSBORNE 1
================================================


;       Copyright G. Cohen 1983
;------------------------------------------------
;
;
;Version 1.1    11-30 PM      18-8-1983
;
;
        .Z80
;------------------------------------------------
;       BDOS CALLS AND EQUATES
;------------------------------------------------
WMBOOT  EQU  0
BDOS    EQU  5
FCB     EQU  5CH
CURREC  EQU  FCB+32

CONIN   EQU  1
CONOUT  EQU  2
PSTRING EQU  9
SELDSK  EQU  14 ;SELECT DISK
OPENF   EQU  15 ;OPEN DISK FILE
CLOSEF  EQU  16 ;CLOSE DISK FILE
SEARCH  EQU  17 ;SEARCH FOR FILE NAME
DELETF  EQU  19 ;DELETE DISK FILE
READSQ  EQU  20 ;READ SEQUENTIAL DISK FILE
WRITSQ  EQU  21 ;WRITE SEQUENTIAL DISK FILE
MAKEF   EQU  22 ;MAKE NEW DISK FILE
SETDMA  EQU  26 ;SET DISK RECORD ADDR (DMA)
;------------------------------------------------
;       GENERAL SYSTEM EQUATES
;------------------------------------------------
ZERO    EQU  0
CLS     EQU  1AH
CR      EQU  0DH
LF      EQU  0AH
SPACE   EQU  20H
ESCAPE  EQU  1BH
QUOTE   EQU  27H   ;SINGLE QUOTE MARK
TPA     EQU  0100H
RUN AD  EQU  04000H
SIZE    EQU  2400H
;------------------------------------------------
;       PROGRAM START
;------------------------------------------------
        ASEG
        ORG  TPA ;CP/M START LOCATION
;------------------------------------------------
; MAIN PROGRAM TO RUN ADDRESS (RUN AD)
;------------------------------------------------
LD   HL,BEG MV  ;START OF MOVE
LD   DE,RUN AD  ;LOCATION TO MOVE TO
LD   BC,ENDPRG-RUN AD ;LENGTH OF MOVE
LDIR            ;OK, NOW MOVE IT
JP   RUN AD     ;JUMP TO RELOCATED PROG
;------------------------------------------------
;       MAIN PROGRAM START
;------------------------------------------------
BEG MV: ;POINTER FOR START OF MOVE
;
MENU:
```

```
LD  A,(FCB+1)     ;GET OPTION
CP  '5'           ;IS IT 52
JR  NZ,NOT52
LD  A,00
JR  SWITCH

NOT52:  CP  '8'   ;IS IT 80
        JR  NZ,NOT80
        LD  A,03
        JR  SWITCH

NOT80:  CP  '1'   ;IS IT 104
        JR  NZ,ERROR EXIT
        LD  A,01
        JR  SWITCH

ERROR EXIT:
CALL  SW2ROM
LD    A,(SIZE)
CALL  SW2RAM

LD    DE,ERROR MESSAGE
BIT   2,A   ;CHECK FOR SCREEN PAC
JR    Z,PRINT EXIT ;YES=0
LD    DE,NO SCREEN PAC

PRINT EXIT:
LD  C,PSTRING
CALL      BDOS
JP  WMBOOT
;------------------------------------------------
; SWITCH SCREEN SIZE
; ACC HAS SCREEN SIZE VALUE
;------------------------------------------------
SWITCH:
PUSH AF
CALL SW2ROM
LD   A,(SIZE)
CALL SW2RAM

BIT  2,A   ;CHECK FOR SCREEN PAC
JR   Z,SCREEN PAC ;JUMP IF YES
POP  AF
LD   DE,NO SCREEN PAC
JR   PRINT EXIT

SCREEN PAC:
POP  AF
CALL SW2ROM   ;OK, SCREEN PAC FITED
LD   (SIZE),A
CALL SW2RAM
JP   WMBOOT
;------------------------------------------------
; SWITCH TO ROM AND I/O IN BANK 2
; AND SAVE ALL REGS
;------------------------------------------------
SW2ROM:
DI
PUSH AF
XOR  A          ;A=ZERO AND RESET COND CODES
OUT  (ZERO),A
SWMEM:
POP       AF
EI
RET
;------------------------------------------------
; SWITCH TO RAM AND I/O IN BANK 1
; AND SAVE ALL REGS
;------------------------------------------------
SW2RAM:
DI
PUSH AF
LD   A,1
OUT  (1),A
JR   SWMEM
;------------------------------------------------
; MESSAGE AND VARIABLE AREA
;------------------------------------------------
ERROR MESSAGE:
DB  CLS,CR,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF
DB  '     TO CHANGE THE SCREEN SIZE'
DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  '     please type'

DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  'SCREEN 52  or'
```

```
DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  'SCREEN 80  or'
DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  'SCREEN 104 or'
DB  CR,LF,LF,'$'


NO SCREEN PAC:
DB  CLS,CR,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF,LF
DB  'I',QUOTE,'M SORRY, BUT THIS'
DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  'PROGRAM ONLY OPERATES'
DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  'ON OSBORNE COMPUTERS'
DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  'WITH  THE  SCREEN PAC'
DB  CR,LF,LF
DB  'OPTION FITTED'
DB  CR,LF,LF,'$'


ENDPRG:           ;END FOR RELOCATE

END
```

The NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING DATES
1984

FEB 15
MAR 21
APR 18
MAY 16
JUN 20
JUL 18
AUG 15
SEP 19
OCT 17
NOV 21
DEC 12
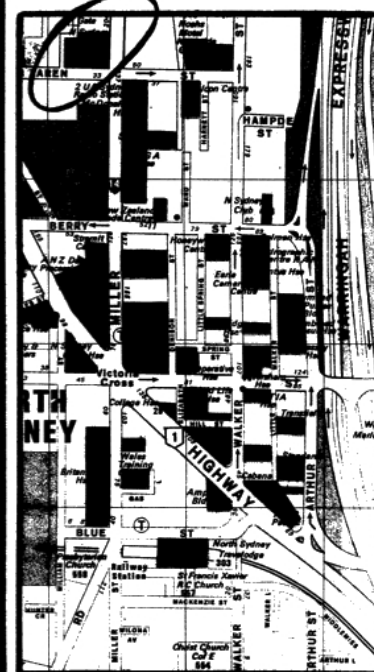
EXECUTIVE
Column

EXECUTIVE COLUMN
By Trevor Bird 22 Dec 1983

Executive Goof

New Member of the group who are proud owners of the Executive will no doubt have been anxious to find out about everything concerning the Group from their newly received - AUS/MEM.001 diskette.

Dutifully following the instructions on the disk, they put it in drive A, press RETURN only to get the message "DISK NOT VALID SYSTEM DISK. PRESS RETURN TO TRY AGAIN.".

This of course is most frustrating to those of you who are new to computers and are not familiar with the vagaries of different systems. The problem of course is that we set up the Memberhip Disk for the Osborne 1 with its version 2.26 CP/M operating system. Now of course this is rather different from the Version 3.0 CP/M Plus used by the Executive.

Those in the know will have COPYSYSed the disk and booted it in the normal fashion or booted the system from some other system disk and reviewed the directory to find:

-AUS/MEM.001 The disk library name.

AUTOST .COM A startup program used by the Osborne 1 that will not work on the Executive.

LIBRARY .DOC This is the Software Library abbreviated documentation to give you an idea of what it contains.

AUSCON .DOC This is the constitution of the Ausborne User Group.

D   .COM This is a DIRectory program that gives you the file names, size, and the space left on the disk.

In using D.COM you will find you get an error message if you type D B: to check the DIRectory on the B drive, assuming you have D.COM in the A drive.

It appears the colon (:) is unnecessary as the B DIRectory pops up on the D B command and appears to work (add & subtract file sizes) satisfactorily on the Executive.

SWEEP .COM This is a very useful utility program for copying, deleting and viewing files.

This is Version 1.2 and though there are later versions in the disk library, this version gives correct disk space totals where the later versions do not.

This can result in file transfers being aborted because SWEEP.COM thinks the destination disk is full when there may still be sufficent space. (Maybe someone has a fix for this problem? - If so how about passing it on so we can all benefit)

UNERA .COM This is the most useful utility program in the disk library but it will NOT work on the Executive. Has anyone de-bugged UNERA.COM or is there another program out there that will do the same job on the Executive?

????????.DOC All DOC files should be read (using Wordstar in either 'D'ocument or 'N'on document mode.

All these files are well worth the printing, (if you have a printer) reading and filing for later reference.

I am currently putting a NEW DISK together for Executive 1 owners to receive when they join. So, if you are unhappy with the present disk please send it back (with your reason/s why you are unhappy - please include your name and Memberhip number 'ON' the disk using the following steps. Indicate your reasons on a Wordstar file called REASONS.DOC and your name/number by eXiting Wordstar, at the Ac prompt type SAVE O DRIVE:NAME.NUM.

Eg. SAVE O B:-WORTHIN.002

This will identify your disk as you will see when you D(irectory) B your disk.) to P.O. Box C 530 Clarence Street, SYDNEY.NSW.2000. Please make sure it is packed as you received it.

If you have the OLD Osborne 1 Memberhip disk please return it and we'll sent you the current Executive Memberhip disk. (Don't forget to follow the disk identification listed above.)

SOFTWARE LIBRARY AND THE EXECUTIVE

The problems listed above highlight a problem that could affect a lot of the software in the Group's library.

It boils down to a fact that if the software makes direct system calls, it may not run on the Executive.

The only way to find out is to try all the programs in the library on the Executive and identify those that will work.

Checking all the software in the library will be a mammoth task and needs your assistance. If you obtain software from the library and it works on your Executive PLEASE LET US

EVEN BETTER STILL

If you create a version of any of the library software for the Executive, send it in to the library so all can benefit.

EXECUTIVE BUGS

A couple of bugs have come to light in the Executive's software.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS

First the good.
There is a bug in the BIOS version 1.0 that causes a warning message...

"BIOS error device (device name) not ready, unassign this device (Y or N)?".

This warning designed to tell you if your printer was properly connected and receiving data. It does this by checking to see if the printer is ready, every seven seconds.

Unfortunately slow printers with large buffers often take longer than this time to request data, hence the message.

The FIX for this is available in the form of a disk containing CP/M Plus system tracks which include BIOS Version 1.1 together with SETUP.COM Version 1.2. Both should be available from your dealer under warranty.

The revised BIOS and SETUP.COM will be included on the new Executive Member introductory diskette.

Now for the Bad news.

There is a bug in the INSTALLS.COM used to modify such things as printer dimensions in the SUPERCALC program SC.COM.

The program appears to run okay and lets you think you are changing the parameters you wish to change, including apparently saving the information to disk on the 'E' command.

However, when you run SC.COM you will find nothing has changed. This can be confirmed by running INSTALLS.COM again.

I've reported this to my dealer and I'd suggest you do likewise as it's most frustrating having to get around the problem.

To give you an idea of one way of getting around it.

When working with Supercalc I always want my dot matrix printer to use compressed print, giving 136 columns across an A4 page and a page length of 72 lines.

As INSTALLS.COM won't change SC.COM I set the page dimensions using the SETUP.COM option of the '/O' command prior to printing with the '/O' option.

O O P S - DEPARTMENT

Correction for COMPACK.COM
with the
Executive Signal Converter

In the previous column there was a Transmit Data Signal Inverter for using the Comm-Pac modem with the Exec.. Unfortunately a couple of errors and omissions occurred. I know at least one Member picked them up because he pointed them out.

not specified, it should be a 5.1.

Secondly, the corrections:

* The resister shown at the bottom of the circuit as 10 ohm should be 10k ohm.

* The wire going to pin 2 of uA741 should be connected to pin 2 of the RS-232C connector.

* The wire from pin 6 of the uA741 should go to wire 3 on the Data Comm modem.

===

PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY
by Trevor R. Bird

===

Detailed below is the formal policy for the operation of the AUG Publications Library. It may appear a little daunting but it is my belief that the policy must be clearly stated so we all know the ground rules for its operation.

So what have we got in the Library you ask? Good question.

I'm in the throws of putting together a full catalogue but I guess the two most popular books in the library would be the Field Service Manuals for the Osborne 1 and the Executive. Sorry, folks we don't have the Techincal Manual for either of them.

Robert Brown has kindly donated ten editions of FOGHORN, the official publication of the First Osborne Group. These contain a wealth of good hints and tips.

Unfortunately we have only three editions of the Portable Companion in the library. Is there anyone out there who can donate copies of this excellent magazine devoted to our favorite toy? The editions we have are the Premier edition (Jun/Jul '82), Aug/Sep '82, and Aug '83.

One book a lot of Member have asked for and which unfortunately is out of print, and it appears to be as scarse as the proverbial hen's teeth, is the Osborne/McGraw-Hill publication "General Ledger- CBASIC" which is the prime reference text for General Ledger software that is included in the Software Library on disks -FOG/APP.001 and -FOG/APP where a copy can be purchased, would be most appreciated.

AUSBORNE USER GROUP

PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY POLICY

The Ausborne User Group Publications Library is run on a volunteer service to the Member of the Ausborne User Group.The resources of the Library are limited and in most cases only one copy of each publication is held. This of course means that while one Member has a publication on loan, all other Member are denied access to it. In view of this, the following policy has benn determined with the aim of providing all Member with an equitable level of access.

LOANS POLICY

All Member are entitled to borrow publication from the Library, unless such entitlement is withdrawn due to a breach of these borrowing rules.

Only one publication will be loaned to a Member at a time.
Each Publication loaned to a Member MUST be covered by a DEPOSIT. (It is hoped this will encourage the forgetfull to be less so.) The Deposit is to be paid in Cash or Cheque. The Deposit will be returned to the Borrower provided the publication is returned within the nominated Loan Period.

Members who do not return publications within the nominated Loan Period will automatically forfiet the Deposit. This DOES NOT mean you can keep the publication, it just means you have lost your deposit and it may be used by the Group to purchase more publications.

Members who fail to return publications will not be entitled to borrow further publications until the first publication is returned.

Persistent failure to return publications within the Loan Period may result in a Member's borrowing entitlement being withdrawn.

Members borrowing AUG Library publications shalll be responsible for ALL costs associated with postage, loss, damage, and defacement of publications loaned to them. Such charges will be deducted as Service Fees from the Deposit prior to its return.

LOANS PROCEDURE

Requests to borrow Group publications should be mailed to:

AUG Publication Librarian
Ausborne Users Group
P O Box C530
Clarence St.
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Each request should nominate the publication preferably by name and Group Publication Number, a cheque made payable to "Ausborne Users Group" to the amount of the Deposit.

Allow 10 to 14 days for the publication to be mailed back to you before chasing too vigorously as the Librarian's time is limited°°°

Alternatively, publications may be collected, or referenced without removal from the Library, by phoning the Librarian, Trevor Bird on 6841335 between 2000 and 2130 Monday to anyone will answer but give it a try.) A time convenient to Trevor will then be arranged for your visit to the Library.

PHOTOCOPYING POLICY

The majority of the publications contained in the Library incorporate Copyright provisions, and as such reproduction is illegal.

Material prepared by the Ausborne Users Group may be copied by Members for their own private use and may be copied for others provided it is not done for commercial gain.

The AUG Library DOES NOT operate a photocopying service.

DEFINITIONS

DEPOSIT

The security held against the loan of a publication to a Member. The amount of the Deposit will be set from time to time by the Committee of the Ausborne User Group. The Deposit is set at $20.00.

LOAN PERIOD

The Loan Period starts the day of issue of the publication by the Librarian and extends fourteen (14) days thereafter. Note that publications must be returned WITHIN the Loan Period.

SERVICE FEE

The costs incurred by the AUG Librarian in packaging, posting, recovering and repairing any damage associated with loaning a publication to a Member. The Service Fee WILL be deducted from the Deposit prior to its return to the Member.

===
SOFTWARE REVIEW
JRT PASCAL V3.0
===

JRT Systems sell this package for $39.95 but
allow free distribution and copying of the
150 page manual.

Features worth noting are -

    indexed files
    erase/rename files
    screen handling
    dynamic memory management
    PICTURE for formatting data
    CP/M interface (if you need it)
    dynamic procedure trace
    dynamic line trace
    INCLUDE files
    activity analyzer

There are 3 disks in the library -
    1) compiler, library
    2) run-time system,library, most com-
    mon functions
    3) other functions

I have set up my development system on
double density as follows -

    1) WORDSTAR set up for program deve-
    lopment Per system under development.
    2) compiler,library, system INCLUDE
    files, SWEEP. (or equivalent)
    3) source and compiled programs.
    4) run-time system, library, required
    functions, compiled programs plus
    SWEEP if room.

Editing -
    A: WORDSTAR B: sources. (or includes)
Compiling -
    A: Compiler B: sources, compiled prog-
    rams.
    Type JRTPAS3   program-name.
Setup for running -
    A: Run-time B: compiled programs.
    Run SWEEP to copy from B: to A:
Running -
    A: Run-time B: system data files.
    Type EXEC program-name.

NOTE for all options and language commands
refer to manual. Have fun.
Eddie Chivers (02) 997-2271 Sydney Australia.

===
SPELL.BAS
Spelling checker details.
By Charles D. Arceneaux
===

This program appeared in Creative Computing,
June, 1983.

It certainly works, although it has some
drawbacks.

1/ It is slow and keeps the disk spinning
   almost continuously while it hunts for
   words.

2/ You have to build your own dictionary.

3/ It has none of the normal bells and whist-
   les -- it doesn't mark misspelled words or
   suggest correct spellings or do anything
   like that.
   It just stops when it finds a word that's
   not in its dictionary and gives a warning
   beep. It's up to you to check the spelling
   and enter the word in the dictionary, skip
   it as being correct but not worth entering
   or mark the word on a printout for later
   correction.

4/ You really need double density because you
   will use up space quickly as your diction-
   ary expands. There is no provision for
   compacting words to save space. Also, it's
   helpful to have MBASIC on the disk.

Start operations with RUN "SPELL". The pro-
gram will ask you for the name of the docu-
ment file to check. Don't specify the disk.
The program expects to find the document on B
(see line 210). Then it will ask if it should
skip any words and, if so, how many pages.
This is provided so that you can start check-
ing anywhere in a long document. You will
need to experiment because the pages don't
relate to WordStar pages.

From there on, just sit back and wait for
your Osborne to beep at you and tell you that
it can't find a word. Incidentally, the pro-
gram ignores figures and punctuation marks.

If you want to record the word in the dict-
ionary, hit R. If you want to quit checking
and get back to Basic, hit Q. If you just
want to skip the word and keep going, hit any
other key.

The dictionary is broken into two programs.
WORD4 holds all words up to four letters in
length. RWORDS holds all other words, up to
15 letters in length. The dictionary won't
accept words of more than 15 letters. Note
the trap in line 465.

SPELDISK.BAS can be ignored. It was only
necessary to set up WORD4 and RWORDS in the
first place.

As published in Creative Computing, the pro-
gram would not read WordStar files because
WordStar sets the eighth bit of selected
letters. I added lines 375 and 415 to over-
come this problem.

As you keep adding words to the dictionary,
they are put into a temporary store. Every
now and then the program will stop for 10 or
20 seconds to organise the store and then
continue. After a while, these stops will get
more frequent and everything will slow down
too much.

When that happens, it's time to transfer
everything to the main dictionary. Hit Q and
the program will ask if you want to transfer
the temporary store (line 870). If you answer
Y it will start transferring and sorting on
disk. This can take some time but the machine
will beep when it's finished. Then you can
start again and go through the rest of the
document.

As your dictionary builds up you will get
fewer stops and things will run more smooth-
ly, but that will take many months. RWORDS
and WORD4 contain the dictionary that I have
built up but there would be only about 2,000
words or less. It's up to you to build your
own dictionary, tailored to your own needs.
Just make sure that a word is correct before
adding it to the dictionary or you will only
be compounding your own errors.

One suggestion by Charles Arceneaux is to get
a document that you know is correct, then
alter the SPELL program to automatically load
the dictionary. Check that the document
doesn't contain one-off words that you don't
want. Also, break it into, say, 500-1,000
word segments. Otherwise the program will get
indigestion.

I decided to try it while I was typing this
and expected some difficulty in altering the
program. As it happens, all that is needed is

one extra line

575 GOTO 620

and it goes into automatic operation. It
certainly speeds up the work of building a
dictionary. Before I ran it I made a copy of
the document with WordStar and deleted the
words I did not want in the dictionary.

The program in automatic mode is on this disk
as SPELAUTO.BAS.

A brief breakdown on the program.

Lines 10-190 set things up and define two
arrays. T$ is the translate table that makes
everything lower case. W$ is filled with
short WORD4 words.
Lines 200-210   ask for the document to read.
Lines 220-340   decide where to start read-
                ing.
Lines 350-390   look for the start of a word.
Lines 400-450   build the word and display
                it.
Lines 460-560   do a binary search of the
                temporary file.
Lines 570-610   ask if a word is to be enter-
                ed.
Lines 620-730   put a new word in the tem-
                porary file.
Lines 740-860   do a binary search of the
                dictionary.
Lines 870-950   handle the closing routine.
Lines 960-1010 collect words longer than
                four letters.
Lines 1020-1220 merge the long words with the
                dictionary.
Lines 1230-1270 enter the new dictionary
                length in the header and end.

J. J. Sullivan, Kallangur, QLD Nov 19, 1983.

===
WORDNO.DOC
From Practical Computing, September 1982
===

Wordno is a little Basic program that will
count the number of words in a document. It
does that and nothing else.

Most people will find it of little practical
use, but it is invaluable for any profession-
al writer. Magazine editors like to know the
word count of any article submitted. So do
newspaper editors and book publishers.

Wordno was written by David Green, of
Nairobi, Kenya, specifically to handle Word-
Star files on an Osborne 1. I added a few
lines to clear the screen and put a message
up to let the operator know the program is
actually doing something. As David Green
says, the program is not fast.

Start it with RUN "WORDNO". It will ask for
the name of the file to count. Type this in
and specify the drive if it's on B. In David
Green's words---

"The file is read in one byte at a time, then
ANDed with 127 to mask the high bit. Control
characters are ignored.

"If a printable character is found, a flag is
set. If a space or carriage return is found
when the flag is set then a word is counted
and the flag reset (cleared? JJS). When the
file ends, the total is printed.

"It is a little slow---it takes about 80
seconds to count 1,000 words on an Osborne 1,
but it is not the sort of program you need to
run all the time. It certainly beats counting
by hand.

"The program counts hyphenated words as one, unless at the end of a line when it counts two. Things like an isolated asterisk or a row of stars count as single words. The last word will not be counted unless you finish with a Return."

J. J. Sullivan, Kallangur, Qld Nov 19, 1983.

==
R.C. ELECTRONICS
CATALOG of HARDWARE and SOFTWARE
An overview
==

R.C. Electronics combines a Canberra based R&D laboratory with a flourishing consultancy covering most of the micro computer world. Geoff Cohen, our chief designer has the answer to most Microcomputer problems. Geoff has had 20 years experience in electronics and computing, with many years running electronics laboratories at the Australian National University.

One of our recent projects was designing the new Osborne 80 Column Screen Pac at our design lab in Canberra. Geoff then spent three months working with Osborne Computer in Silicon Valley (USA) getting his prototypes to the final production version. We are currently working on some innovative hardware for the IBM PC.

R.C. Electronics can also supply your complete computer needs, and can sell you a wide range of Computer systems.

Please note that we are still supporting the Osborne 1 , with comprehensive stocks of spares, plus 80 column, Double Density and Calendar Clock upgrades for the Osborne 1. We also sell a comprehensive range of printers, modems, paper, interface cables and most important of all, reliable service and training by an acknowledged expert in the field.

We also specialise in those really knotty problems that others put in their 'too hard' basket, including communications between various computers and interfacing those supposedly standard components (the ones that wont talk to each other when assembled) and 'one off' electronic design and software jobs including our exclusive 1.8M Byte Floppy Disk versions of computers, including the Osborne 1, and IBM PC.

Most importantly we will not sell you a series of 'black boxes' and then leave you to get it all running, we will set up your complete system and thoroughly train you in it's operation. We are also available over the phone if you need help. So if you have a question at 7pm on Saturday we can still help you, you don't have to wait until Monday morning.

R.C. Electronics also provide a comprehensive range of Computer hardware, with our standard range listed below, and also the proven ability to design and build your special purpose hardware (or software) requirements. Remember, Osborne Computer Corporation chose our 80 column Video, and these are still selling very well.

DOUBLE DENSITY

For the Osborne 1, doubles your disk capacity, and enables upgrading to 1.8 MegaBytes with the Super-I-O board. Also includes A.V's Bios (see below), and lets your computer read IBM, Kaypro, Dec, Morrow and Xerox disks.

80 COLUMN SCREEN PAC

For the Osborne 1, provides software selectable screen sizes of 52, 80 and 104 characters per line. Highly recommended for Wordprocessing and also for Supercalc. Also includes A.V's Bios (see page 4), and lets your computer read IBM, Kaypro, Dec, Morrow and Xerox disks.

THE SUPER I/O BOARD

3 DISK DRIVES in your Osborne One, with up to 1800 Kilobytes of storage, by fitting two 800K slim line double sided disk drives in place of one standard Osborne disk drive. The other disk drive is left 'as is' for reading and writing standard diskettes. Also includes A.V. Softwares BIOS.

CLOCK/CALENDAR

Keeps track of time to the second, plus the date, month and year. Keeps accurate time when the computer is switched off and is easily called from BASIC, DBASE II or CPM. Just like having a digital watch in your Osborne.

BAUD RATES

From 75 baud to 38400 baud. These are simply selected with our new version of SETUP, and support SEPARATE transmit and receive baud rates. This is necessary for the new 1200/75 baud Modems and also for Prestel etc.

PARALLEL PORT

One extra 16 bit parallel port is provided. This is similar to the standard Osborne Parallel port, and could support A/D converters etc.

Available in 4 versions (prices include fitting) :-

Clock and double sided disk support As above, plus Baud rate generator As above, plus parallel port Complete 1.8MByte, 3 disk drive system with CLOCK, Baud rate and Fan, plus all software utilities.

We are currently working on a version of this board for the IBM PC, KAYPRO and MORROW to give you 1.8 to 2 Mega-Bytes of floppy storage built in to your Computer.

A.V. SOFTWARE'S BIOS (for the Osborne 1)

MORE DISK SPACE

190 K Double density on A drive, 198K on B drive.

MORE FUNCTION KEY SPACE

Up to 750 bytes. Think what this will do to your application, compared to the original 75.

MORE FUNCTION KEYS

Use any key as a function Key, with over 750 bytes free for use, and 70 function keys.

MORE DISK TYPES

Read IBM, KAYPRO, MORROW, DEC, XEROX and "President" Double Density, with the ability to select more in the future.

Better START UP

Our new SETUP program lets you select your 'Boot up' program name, such as MBASIC MENU.

WORDSTAR CUSTOMISATION

Send in your Wordstar disk and we will fully configure it for your printer. We can set up many printers, the most popular being the Brother HR-15 daisy wheel, and ITOH 8510 and EPSON MX80 dot matrix printers. This provides Super-script and also Sub script, with much faster Simultaneous printing and editing (the keyboard doesn't 'slow down' when you are typing while a file is being printed). For the Osborne 1, Arrow keys automatically change between Wordstar and CPM. No more problems when rubbing out in CPM and getting a ^S printed instead.

COOLING FAN

Fit our fan if your computer is running hotter than you like. Also includes a filter to keep all that nasty dust away from your disk drives, and blows clean air through the disk drives.

SERIAL to PARALLEL CONVERTER

Enables any COMPUTER with a SERIAL port to run a PARALLEL (Centronics) printer, at any baud rate from 300 to 9600. As parallel printers are much cheaper than serial this is a definite cost advantage, especially as this will run on any PARALLEL printer. Thus if you purchase another printer you can buy the cheaper parallel version. The Parallel to Serial Converter comes complete with cables, thus saving the $70 that a normal printer cable costs.

MONITOR ADAPTOR

For the Osborne 1, enables the use of external video monitors. This plugs inside your Osborne 1 and a standard "RCA" video socket is fitted to the front panel of the computer (the same as the 80 column Screen Pac). This only requires one 6.2mm hole to be drilled.

12 VOLT ADAPTOR

To run your Osborne Computer in a car, from a car cigarette lighter or a 12 Volt battery. A battery pack can be supplied if required.

PRINTER CABLE

For your Osborne 1 and printer, also available for most popular computers. Parallel (or Centronics) printer cables are $59-95, and Serial printer cables are $55-95.

KEYBOARD EXTENSION CABLE

For your Osborne 1 keyboard. Simply unplug your Osborne keyboard cable and plug in this extension to give the freedom of an extra 3 feet of cable. This, for example, lets you type with the keyboard sitting on your knee (not as much fun as a secretary, but it is a lot cheaper)

R. C. ELECTRONICS
72 Spofforth Street
Holt A.C.T. 2615
Phone (062) 547608 printed 7-11-1983.

What can cause contamination of diskettes?
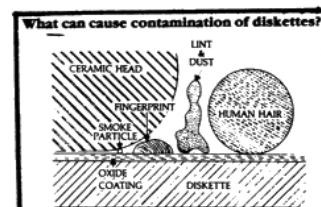
HIRING A COMPUTER
By Gregory See-Kee.

Since February, 1983, Grace Brothers of North Ryde (887 0133) have available for hire either the Osborne or the IBM Personal computers.

Charges are for a minimum contract of six months. Each month the fee is seven (7) percent of the total retail value of the equipment hired. In later years of hire, this comes down to 6% in Year Two, 5% in Year Three.

The fee includes install, delivery, and all repairs for faulty equipment. The customer provides his own insurance coverage. Only standard software is available. Extra software is added to the retail value of the package, and has a minimum 12 months hire fee.

If the equipment is bought, half the hire charges are deducted from the purchase price of the equipment.

A sample package of say $4000 full retail value (e.g. Osborne computer, daisy wheel printer and twelve inch monitor screen) would be charged at a rate of :

```
7% of $4000 = $280 /month
            = $1680/ six months
            = $3360/ twelve months
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CONNECTING A MICROCOMPUTER TO THE TERMINALS

If a Morrow Decision microcomputer is bought to connect with the VT100 terminals, it will cost $1795 (tax exempt) for single sided/double density, twin disc drives. If double sided drives are chosen, it will cost $2440.

KAYPRO UNDER REVIEW.
By Gregory See-Kee.

I had a Kaypro on loan for a few days, but I couldn't stand it. The machine went back the next day.

I had just sold my brown case Osborne, and was waiting for my dealer to supply my new Osborne. "Here, borrow the Kaypro II for a while."

The day before, my dealer (Albert Hadid) loaned me an Osborne Executive, so here is the comparison. Price is about the same, with the Kaypro being a few hundred dollars more. It has an extra 10 kb on the disk (193Kb to 183 Kb) and takes nearly twice as long to copy a disk from one disk drive to another (2'19" compared to 1'17"). Another inconvenience : you can only copy Drive A to Drive B, and not B to A as well.

One advantage is that Drive B can be set up to read/write an variety of microcomputers: Tandy, Osborne SD/DD, etc. However, this Kaypro program is nowhere as good as the Osborne program available from Osborne dealers for less than $80. Drive A cannot be anything other than Kaypro format, so it would be hopeless for someone needing to keep a lot of Osborne format disks.

The time to format a blank disk on the Kaypro is 43 seconds, compared to Osborne's 26 seconds. As librarian of a CP/M user group, I would be waiting and waiting a lot of wasted time if I had a Kaypro.

The Kayro RESET BUTTON is at the extreme back of the sharp edged metal cabinet. It often needs to be pressed, since BDOS ERRORS and dead keyboards are one of its favourite tricks. It takes 75 seconds of constant disk whirring before the Kaypro tells you that it has discovered a BDOS error. This compare with just a few seconds on the Osborne.

SYSGEN is very literal and fussy. You need to watch precisely whether you are in upper or lower case, and if the screen says to press RETURN, you must. On the Osborne, you just press AA OR BB, as required.

The manual suggests that the Kaypro simulates a Lear Siegler ADM-3A terminal. Not true. With WordStar 3.3, I could not get true dim characters. The letters on the screen are a very rough dot matrix, with poor formation and improper lower descenders. On a Kaypro 10 (costing about $6000), the video characters approach the quality of an Osborne 1.

The Keyboard is a primitive and noisy box, with very few repeating keys. In a cold room, the bare aluminimum box is cold and uncomfortable to touch. Its razor sharp corners gouge hole in human flesh. The folded aluminium sheets are covered with a soft enamel paint that scratches off easily, as well as holding onto all the dirt and stains.

The cord connecting the keyboard and the rest is very thin and fragile, and snakes all over the table, to a hiding place at the back of the main unit. If you had to connect a modem and a printer alternatively, or two printers, I could understand your callouses and aching back.

The cold metallic boxes of both the keyboard and the main cabinet are there to tortuous us with the cruelest of sounds. The disk drives scratch like the teacher with scratchy chalk. Both disk drives spin at the same time, reverberating through the full extent of the box, and they are slow to stop spinning.

When using SWEEP, the Kaypro is very slow. I could not get SUPERCALC working at all. As you can see with the accompanying benchtests, the Kaypro is in general, very slow.

The Osborne Executive itself did not come up smelling like a rose. Its fan is noisy, and it gave out so much radio interference that I could not listen to my portable radio. My new Blue Case Osborne 1 has less radio interference than my Brown Case unit, but none of the Osbornes were as good as the Kaypro with the supression of spurious radio transmissions. There's nothing like a solid metal box to trap radio frequency. This is probably the only reason why anyone would bother buying a Kaypro.

NEW LIBRARY DISKS
FOG/APP.015

First Osborne Group (FOG) Applications Disk

This disk contains SuperCalc spreadsheet templates.

ANOVA-RM and LIN-REG were submitted at a FOG meeting by a lady who's name I neglected to ask. (Please accept my apology.) ANOVA-RM performs analysis of variance with repeated measures. LIN-REG will do linear regression as described in the October/November 1982 issue of Portable Companion.

TAXBASE, submitted by Bill Francis, enables preparation of form 1040 for income received during 1982.

1040AB82 is another template for taxes on 1982 income. This one presents form 1040 and schedules A and B. It was submitted by Scott Rainey of the Osborne Business Users Group (OSBUG) in Portland. Unfortunately for many of us, this spreadsheet was prepared using SuperCalc version 1.12 and can not be read using version 1.05 (which I currently have). Sorcim says 1.12 is upward compatible, but not downward. For information, see 1040AB82 .DOC.

FOG/APP.016

This disk contains SuperCalc templates submitted by Scott Rainey of the Osborne Business Users Group (OSBUG) in Portland, Oregon.

AMORT60 calculates a 60 month loan amortization. GEMLOAN and GEM2 are for Growing Equity Mortgages.

FOG/APP.017

This disk contains a system for extracting file names from a disk directory and maintaining a database of the names. It may be useful for cataloging your personal disk library. (Also, see the CATALOG system found on FOG/UTL.002.) Paul Trainer submitted DIRECTORY for managing the directory database and DSORT to sort it.

This program is menu driven; when new disks are to be filed, it will ask you to place the disk in drive B.

TEACH2 is a revision of TEACH found on FOG/APP.006. This is a program to teach Morse code. To sound the bell, TEACH used a method for entering "shadow ROM mode" which is invalid on the newer Osborne's. TEACH2 resolves this problem.

FOG/MIS.011

This disk contains the FOGHORN, Vol. 1, Nos. 6 and 7. They are squeezed files. First unsqueeze from USQ.COM from FOG/UTL.003, .004, or .014, then print using WordStar. (P at "no-file" menu).

CCPBUG.FIX describes patches to the CP/M Console Command Processor to facilitate use of disk directory USER areas.

ZSID.FIX describes patches to ZSID to make the DUMP display similar to DDT and SID.

FOG/MIS.012

This disk contains the FOGHORN, Vol. 1, No. 8, parts 1 and 2. They are squeezed files. First unsqueeze using USQ.COM from FOG/UTL .003, .004, or .014, then print using WordStar (P at "no-file" menu).

LIBRARY.CTL suggests procedures you may wish to use to control your own disk library.

MDMPRTCL.DOC by Ward Christensen documents his MODEM communication protocol.

MOVCPM.FIX describes patches to MOVCPM.COM, which probably are not required for most Osborne 1 versions of that utility.

SPELSTAR.FIX recommends a correction to MicroPro's SpellStar program.

FROM LIBRARY DISK "MISC.013":

CHAINING PROGRAMS UNDER CPM 2.2
by DOUG HUSKEY

I have often been asked how to write menu driven applications which will run under CP/M. If the applications are being developed using PL/I-80, this can be accomplished by writing the programs as a set of overlays. Often, however, some of the programs may be written in assembly language, or require too much memory to make the use of the overlay feature of PL/I-80 appropriate. Without using overlays, there are only two effective ways of chaining under CP/M 2.2. First, you can use the CP/M submit facility. The trick is to have the main menu program create a submit file with the programs to be chained listed in it. The file must be written to drive A, and have the name "$$$.SUB". + ...
(MORE)

USER MODIFIABLE INDEX

Three files comprise this series: DBINDEX1 .DBF (the complete index incorporated in a dBASEII file), DBINDEX2.DBF (only the "A" entries of the previous file for ease of manipulation) and DBINDEX3.TXT (a WordStar nondocument file generated from DBINDEX2.DBF)

This is an example of a "User modifiable Index" which should be fairly easy to generate for various Osborne manuals. It gives the user the option of adding or changing items in an index to suit his/her peculiar tastes in finding things in indices. It should be fairly easy to generate the base case by typing the indices supplied by OCC (for Users Manual, dBASE II, Technical Manual, etc.) into a dBASEII file (like DBTRANS1.DBF - see structure) and supplying on disk as both dBASEII file (for those who have that program) and WordStar file like this one (for everyone). Additional items can be inserted most easily in the dBASEII file with INDEX - ing and SORTing at will. Alternatively, new items (or modifications) can be made in the WordStar file by insertion into proper alphabetical order.

The page numbers noted in the sample indices refer to a personal revision of the dBASEII manual designed for copious annotations and revisions and have no meaning for any of the standard dBASEII manuals. The "u" notations refer to the "dBASEII User's Guide" published by Software Banc with "u" following the page number for pages under 100 and preceding the page number over page 100.

An additionl modification of the index (which I will probably eventually do) is to add some additional fields to the dBASE II file specifying more specific indices (for WordStar, SuperCalc, etc.).

USER MODIFIABLE INDEX FOR OSBORNE USER'S REFERENCE GUIDE

These indices are organized in the same way as the index for dBASE II that is described in DBINDEX.DOC.

The index contains only a small amount of the information contained in the OCC1 Guide. It was constructed from the information in the Table of Contents of the Guide.

The pertinent files are: OCC1NDX3.DBF (dBASE II file sorted alphabetically), OCC1NDX3.FRM (print format for printing from dBASE II) and OCC1NDX3.TXT (WordStar nondocument file transferred from OCC1NDX3.DBF with some editorial changes to improve the text).

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ONE READERS STORY
By J. J. Sullivan, KALLANGUR, QLD 4503
Nov. 22, 1983
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I delayed the purchase of my Osborne 1 until I could get a double density machine because I knew the problems a friend of mine had with single density 40-track disks on his 6800 computer.

My previous computer had been a Synertek SYM, which only had provision for 4K of memory. If you wanted more, you built more. I laboriously designed and built additional memory boards and finished up with 24K of memory and a pair of cassettes under computer control for memory storage.

The SYM only allowed for 32K of continuous memory. It used a 6502, which would address 64K, but the designers had planked the monitor in ROM right in the middle of the memory space. That was quite common with early computers. The designers all knew that no-one would ever need more than 32K of RAM and only wealthy people could afford that much. In fact, 16K was quite a powerful computer.

I remember reading somewhere that the first U.S. manned satellite, carrying John Glenn, was monitored from the ground by the biggest and most up-to-date main-frame computer available. It had 16K of memory.

I finally pensioned the SYM off and bought the Osborne. With double density, I obviously wouldn't have any storage problems and I wouldn't have to buy many disks.

I bought a box of 10 SSDD disks with the computer under the impression that I wouldn't need to buy any more for months. Then I started discovering the facts of disk storage and backup. Within a couple of months I'd bought another five boxes. And I don't use many disks --- well, not compared with most computer owners.

Very early in the piece I discovered that disk filing was an art in itself. The routine I had followed with cassettes was effective but slow and something better was needed with disks.

The first filing stage was to standardise on three makes of disks --- BASF, Nashua and Verbatim. The BASF disks are used for all WordStar material, letters, articles and the like. Nashua disks are for programs such as WordStar itself, CP/M, Supercalc, database and so on. Verbatim disks are used for everything else. This preliminary sort really cuts down the number of labels I need to check.

The second move was to abandon the labels that come with the disks and use a continuous roll of larger labels that give me more room to note details. At the same time, I bought a set of colored spots (blue, green, orange and yellow) and color-coded each disk for Basic, WordStar, Supercalc or CP/M. Unfortunately, blue for Basic is the only mnemonic I can find. Some disks do finish up with a bit of each but I avoid that if I can.

Since I generally know what disk I want, this system allows me to go pretty well straight to it. Of course, with a lot more disks I would have a problem just remembering which disk carries which program. When things reach that stage, I'll haul out the CP/MUG disk that carries the master catalogue programs. For anyone interested, it's disk no. 40 in the CP/MUG catalogue. The Ausborne Group

library carries these programs on UTL.002.

That master catalogue, with six separate programs, is valuable for anyone with a large number of disks. It will provide a listing of all programs and the disks that hold them, or a listing of programs on certain disks or a listing of certain types of programs. It will probably do a lot of other things, but I only experimented with it briefly since I have no immediate need for it.

I use my Osborne almost entirely for business purposes, with an 80 column board and a 12" BMC green monitor. I find it a highly efficient business combination. I would hate to have to operate without WordStar and Super-Calc.

I have been intrigued by the number of magazine reports on SuperCalc that give me the impression that the authors know about computers but don't know anything about business. Consistently, these reports talk about using SuperCalc for "what-if" calculations. Certainly it will handle them, but it will do a lot of other things as well. I never see other uses mentioned. I wonder if those authors have ever looked at the demonstration programs that come on the SuperCalc disk. Maybe the programs are only on the Osborne disk.

I use SuperCalc mainly for my cash book and petty cash book. It simplifies the dissections and additions enormously and allows me to pull out useful sub-totals without any effort. It even puts the cheque numbers in automatically, given the first number. Once the format is worked out and stored on disk, monthly figures can be produced very quickly.

The same applies to income figures. My requirements are probably unusual, but I have detailed income and expenditure figures at the end of each month and the cash flow is obvious.

I have picked up the Osborne Group general ledger disk and will be interested in experimenting with that, when I can get a copy of the Osborne-McGraw Hill book. Without that, the program will not work at all, I discovered. It requires a specific answer to a question early in the piece and if it gets the wrong answer the whole screen shakes like a partly set blancmange. The answer seems to require figures. At a rough guess, I would need the Chart of Accounts in order to answer correctly. It would be possible to get past this hurdle by continued experiment but I would rather wait for the book, assuming it is going to be reprinted.

That earlier mention of double density disks reminded me of a small problem with the Ausborne Group disks. Each disk carries a program called DISK.DOC. I always transfer two disks to one of my double density disks before storing the originals for safety. I discovered the hard way that transferring the second disk wipes out the DISK.DOC from the first disk. Now I rename each program before transfer with the disk number, e.g. DISK001 .DOC.

Incidentally, if you run 80 columns on your Osborne, you will often want to reformat any WordStar programs that have been set to 52 columns. Normally, this ...R Wordstar Command listings, Volume 1. Number 7. can be done with ^QQ^B, but you will sometimes come across a document with every line ending in a hard return. WordStar can't reformat those lines until the returns are removed.

The manual is not too clear on the routine for this. Key in ^QA for search and replace. When the prompt asks for the string to be replaced, key in ^N RETURN. For the prompt asking for the replacement, just hit RETURN. Then it will ask for options. Type G.

WordStar will step through the program, stopping at each hard return and asking whether it should be replaced. In this case, replaced means removed. Once the entire document has been finished, go back to the start and use ^QQ^B to reformat everything to your new margin settings.

I seem to spend a lot of time loading Word-Star, for one reason or another. I am continually switching in and out of the program, although probably no more than anyone else.

Since it always boots on drive A, I got tired of this L B: routine to shift to drive B. I am ashamed to admit that it did not occur to me for many months, but I eventually used SETUP to load those commands onto one of the function keys. Now Control 1 shifts me to drive B. It doesn't save much in the way of keystrokes but it does eliminate that annoying wait between the L and the B:.

I realise that you can get into WordStar from CP/M with just a Control C and WS without having to go through the RESET RETURN for a cold boot, but then you suddenly find that your function keys haven't been loaded.

[EDITORS NOTE] We also spend a lot of time switching in and out of Wordstar and have formatted the function keys a little differently.

0 - B:<CR>A:WS<CR>
    Logs drive B: then returns to drive A: and loads Wordstar leaving drive B: as the loged drive.(much faster)

1 - XD<CR> eXtenDed directory on A:

2 - XD B:<CR> on B:

3 - ^OR 42<CR>^JH 2<CR>^OJ<CR>^OH<CR>
    Sets right margin to 42 (Newsletter format) Help level to 2 (I'm not good enough for 0 even after a year of hard work on Wordstar) Justification and hypehn help ON.

4 - .MT 0<CR>.MB 0<CR>.OP<CR>.PO 0<CR> .LH 7<CR>.CW 8<CR>
    Sets Margin top/bottom to zero. Omitts page number. Sets page off set to zero. Sets line hight and Character width to 7 & 8 respectively.(again the (Newsletter format)

So in four key strokes I am ready to format or whatever, the next newsletter.

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PUBLIC DOMAIN - FREE OF COPYRIGHT
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In this public domain library, there are over 1100 files, containing over 600 programs, on 75 single sided disks. PUBLIC DOMAIN programs are not copyright-protected, and cannot be sold for profit. They are donated by the original authors, often being published in magazines that are sold to the general public. Most commercial software was at some time a public domain program which some entrepeneur then improved. However, commercial software does not always have a higher standard than public domain software.

This library and all the programs in it are done in the spirit of sharing and caring for our fellow human beings. Before any program is added to the library, it is made as accurate and user-friendly as possible. Otherwise it goes into the HACKERS section of the library, awaiting the attention of another kind person.

SEVEN CATEGORIES exist within these thousand or so files. The first 6 categories are : GAMES (GAM), APPLICATIONS (APP), MISCELLANE-OUS (MIS), UTILITIES (UTL), LANGUAGES (LNG), and HACKERS (HAK). These are exactly the same as the U.S.A.'s "First Osborne Group" (FOG).

Thus "FOG/APP.014" is the fourteenth disk put out by the First Osborne Group, in the Applications category.

Applications are business relate programs, utilities help you with the CP/M system, and hopefully, the other categories are self-defining.

"Hackers" disks contain many types of programs of suspect or unproven worth. They are awaiting attention.

The final category is from the "AUSBORNE USERS GROUP" (AUG), and contains non-copyright software that has been put onto disk in Australia, and which is not on any other of the "FOG" disks. It is a miscellaneous collection, which will be revised every few months.
Ausborne User Group disks will come from varied sources around Australia, and contain the latest programs. You may purchase these by mail order, or copy them at meetings, or with a group of club contacts.

If you have any queries please address all correspondence to:-

The Secretary,
Ausborne User Group,
P.O. Box C530,
Clarence Street,
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.

N.B. Please don't forget to include a stamp addressed envelope for your reply. In urgent cases please contact the appropriate office bearer.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO SOME PEOPLE, ARE THE TWO CATEGORIES OF PROGRAMS.

Those with large collections of disks will be interested in the Library Utilities, and those who delve into communication programs may be interested in our special YAM DISK.

-FOG/LIB.CAT

Because of the size of a collection of files sorting of your/our library of disks.

The MAST.CAT file contains a current catalog of the FOG disk library. This catalog is maintained using the NEWCAT and CAT utilities duplicated here from -FOG/LIB.001. For information concerning use of CAT, refer to CATA-LOG.DOC found on that disk.

This disk is presently incomplete. Since the MAST.CAT file will be updated each month, it is not expected that this disk will ever be made permanent.

OSBORNE SINGLE DENSITY FORMAT

All disks are single sided, single density, to retain some compatibility with all Osborne

and Osborne-cloned microcomputers (e.g. Kay pro, Xerox, IBM P-C, Cromenco, Morrow, etc.).

GETTING COPIES OF THE SOFTWARE

The international method of gaining access to these disks is that you may copy them, free of charge, whenever you can access them, and that on program of any of the disks can be sold for profit.

In Australia, the Ausborne Users Group (AUG) has a mail order service, currently (8/83) selling Verbatim (double density quality) disks at $6, including post and packaging, but not insurance. However, due to the voluntary efforts of the committee, this method of access can be not as reliable or immediate as attending a meeting of the Ausborne User Group. The duty librarian will loan you a disk to copy during the meeting whilst he/she holds your membership card as security.

UPDATES are regulary being created by the enthusiastically by CP/M users all over this planet. Many are from the 8" CP/M Users Group Library, or specially devised for the Osborne computer. All "FOG" disks will remain unaltered from the day of their creation.

AUG disks will constantly be updated, in the same manner used by the Apple Users Group.
```
================================================
```
YAM Yet Another Modem
```
================================================
```
The YAM program is, at the present, the most commonly used program for remote Bulletin Board work in Sydney.

The YAM files on this disk are not the same. The YAMOSBJJ.COM file was downloaded from the Sydney Public Service access board. This version was written by John Johston and it matches the YAMOSB.H file, which was downloaded from the same source. This program seems to work in the correct way. Ihaven't really tested it, and my modem uses the serial (modem) port and so it may need reconfiguring for use with this port.

The other YAM file, YAMOSB.COM came from Bill Bolton by way of Your Computer magazine and Greg Stringer. I haven't managed to get this to work yet, but I have double density and it may be a compatibility problem. Feedback would be appreciated by the Ausborne User Group. (Greg Stringer says that he has used it successfully).

All the source files required to compile the YAM program are on these two disks. BDS 'C' is required to compile this program. YAMS.C may need to be changed for the Osborne.

The YAM.DOC file is a complete user manual for the use of YAM. It also has hints and tips on configuring and compiling YAM. It is by Bill Bolton. It prints out in 66 columns.

Ross Lane, Umina N.S.W. (member of the Ausborne User Group, Sydney).

```
================================================
```
NUCLEUS
MAILING SERVICE P.O. BOX 60, MARRICKVILLE. 2204
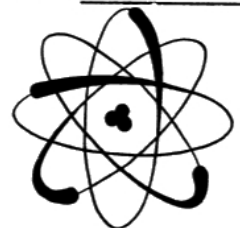
=======================================
OPEN FILE
=======================================

The program below was written to answer a question raised by JOHN HERBST in the last newsletter. (Vol 1, Number 7) He required a program to check and display the printer status.

"The program requires dBASE II Version 2.3b,(or later) Osborne 1, DD, Version 1.44. It uses a call to E12DH (E52DH for SD, Version 1.30) to check the 1st: device status so it may work on the serial interface provided handshaking is used. The example only checks the status once therefore, if necessary, use a DO WHILE loop."

PRINTER STATUS COMMAND FILE

```
* By Colin Kemp 24/11/83
* This program checks the status of a
* printer connected to the IEEE port.
SET TALK OFF
* 45056 = 8000H : temporary area for
 subroutine
STORE 45056 TO ADDRESS
SET CALL TO ADDRESS
* the subroutine is POKEd into memory
POKE ADDRESS,205,45,225,50,0,176,201
* then CALLed
CALL
* on return 8000H = 0 if printer is OFF,
* deselected or out of paper.
* 8000H = 255 if printer is ready.
* we can then alert the operator
STORE PEEK(ADDRESS) TO STATUS
IF STATUS = 255
   RETURN
ELSE
   ? 'PLEASE CHECK PRINTER'
   ? 'ENTER RETURN TO CONTINUE'
```

===
PROBLEMS WITH WORDSTAR
===

17/08/83. (See they do get to me ?)

Mr P. Plackett is having trouble with his Wordstar and would like some advice. It's not a problem I've heard of before so maybe some of you can help.
"...and would like some advice on some problems which have developed with the machine. (Brown case Osborne 1) One of these is an automatic, and apparently irriversible, shift to upper case characters, when a Wordstar file exceeds one page plus about foru lines."
An interesting problem indeed.Can anyone out there solve this one ?
He also asked about a Melbourne group so I include here a cutting from one of the papers that might help. I don't know which paper as it was sent in as you see it."

===
FORM THE BACK OF BEYOND
===

20/08/83. BARCALDINE. QLD.

"The main reason I joined the User Group was to obtain hints and advice by way of the Group Newsletter and possibly obtain useful programs on disk from the library. The only other computer in town is an Apple at the high school and nobody there can realy help me so you see I don't have much contact with other users.
I use the Osborne 1 to help me in my job as racing secretary for central Queensland. The association uses card systems for storing large amounts of statistics and are very wary of "these computer things". Fortunately they did see it as being some help and paid for dBASE II.

I never thought that I may be able to help anyone with any problems but I may have discovered a problem.
About a month after buying the Osborne, drive B started to give "BAD SECTOR" messages but did not destroy any files. It would not format or copy disks. I had to go to Brisbane at that time so off I went to Archive Computers where they used a utility disk which verified that the drive was faulty. Two days later they told me the machine was ok but they had been unable to find a problem. Thankfully a vague reference to disk earthing was made by the serviceman. Shortly after returning 1100 km to Barcaldine drive A gave up the ghost and ruined a couple of disks in doing so. I have learned the hard way the joys (?) of not backing up valuable information.
Being far from happy about the prospect of having to ship the Osborne to Brisbane, by and by I removed the covers to have a look-see. The first move was to see if there was in fact an earth wire anywhere that wasn't connected. Sure enough the little earth clip had fallen of drive A again. I replaced it and had no problems. Since then the clip has fallen off drive B again. I do move the Osborne quite regularly from work to home so that probably caused most of my problems.
Could anyone in the Group help me with my next problem ? I want to try and link up with a Tandy model 2 which is situated some 100 km away, mainly to transfer files to him. There is another Osborne 100 km in the other direction and I would like to be able to link up with him. I would like also to be able to link up with an ICL mainframe in Melbourne. The ICL computer is setup for 1200 baud and they will set up to receive files, all I have to do is be able to send them....."
J. Wallis.

[EDITORS NOTE]

Sorry your letter was so long in getting both to me and into these pages, I do hope you have already had some advice from elsewhere in the meantime.
One of the best hard/software communications packages about is the Osborne Comm Pak. I use it myself with the O1 and find it very easy indeed though the manual is as un-clear as any I've ever seen.
It is a full Auto Answer/Dial system, menu driven with programmable dial listing. I've set mine up with twenty six (A - Z) listings, (not all assigned) but have not tried AA, AB, AC Etc.
The Com Pac is still without Telecom approval so you use it at your own risk, and the risk of loosing all equipment attached to it - this could be expensive if you were to have not only your computer connected but a printer, plotter, hard disk drive, monitor and the like connected when/if they were to come around and fine you with the unit CONNECTED to Telecom lines !
"BAD SECTORS" can sometimes be corrected by using the "Copy" utility supplied with the Osborne 1, but this gives a low rate of success (1 % if you are very lucky).

===
GRAPHICS
===

07/09/83. KELLYVILLE.NSW.

"...The type of Graphics I am looking for are Bar Charts, Pie Charts, Straight & Dot lines [as well as] objects depicted by them, (including curves resulting from exponential equations and conical sections.)"
D. G. Lyons.

===
KEYBOARD TROUBLES AGAIN
===

07/11/83.

"I am having Keyboard trouble. The lower alphabetical keys (V B M) are only working when I put the membrane ribbon conductor in a "special kink".
You mention installing new switches. [Vol 1 No 4 (?)] Do you know if there is anyone making an adaptor to connect the Osborne 1 socket from a membrane to a care connector so that I can use an up market keyboard."
F. Walker.

[EDITORS NOTE]

One of the best things about the Osborne is the use of stock standard parts in it's construction. This allows for easy replacement and therefor adaption. Direct Connect Electronics in Chatswood should be able to help you with the correct connector.

===
DO NOT FOLD, SPIKE OR SPINDLE
===

18/09/83.

"...PLEASE mark the envelope "DO NOT FOLD" I still remember the time Delta Computer Systems sent me a diskette and a resident vandal in the Post Office folded it once and folded it twice to cram it into my P.O. Box..."
T. Butt.

[EDITORS NOTE]

In the same letter there is a request for a program that will "sort lists of names in alphabetical order, each listing containing one or several numbers that also must be sorted on. To top it all off Mr Butt wants the program to be able to print the listings with BOLD, EXPANDED & CONDENSED ETC printing automatically on various fields.
Eg sorted from -

IAQUINTO Bros	26
"I CARE" Appliance Service	31
IDA Removalists	11
J IMPELL Real Estate	06 07
INDESIT (Norge Appliances)	N19
INTERNATIONAL Chemical Industries	09
Combustion Aust Ltd	
([IC] crest)	42

sorted to -

J IMPELL Real Estate	06 07
INTERNATIONAL Chemical Industries	09
IDA Removalists	11
INDESIT (Norge Appliances)	N19
IAQUINTO Bros	26
"I CARE" Appliance Service	31
INTERNATIONAL	
Combustion Aust Ltd	
([IC] crest)	42

[ ] = EXPANDED

As you can see he does not want too much ? Can any of you help him with his problem ?

===
HR-15 PRINTER PROBLEMS
===

30/08/83.

"I have just purchased a Brother HR-15 printer and am currently [hope he's got is going by this time] setting up INSTALL on Wordstar to get the most out of the printer."
J.T. Bellair.

[EDITORS NOTE]

This letter was addressed to me since I am using the HR-15 on the Newsletter.
I too have been having trouble "getting the most" out of it. To date I have even been unable to print in columns for the Newsletter and have had to paste up columns of material to get the three column format used at present.
It was only last night while talking to Mr G. Stringer of City Personal Computers (Crows Nest/North Sydney) that this problem was solved. It's so simple it was overlooked. Wordstar is (mine atleast) installed with micro justification "ON" causing any column past one to fit into the spaces left in column one. Solution ".UJ O" which switches the micro justification "OFF".
I was told some time ago that if I installed the Wordstar printer mode to Diablo X-ON X-OFF. I tried this without success. It printed ok but still the column problem. Is there anyone out there who has managed to "get the most" out of the HR-15 ?

==
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
==
06/12/83. [GETTING CLOSER FOKES]

"I have recently purchased an Osborne 1 computer for a variety of domestic and business uses, and it will be utilised solely by myself and my wife. However being located on a farm away from major city centres we are handicapped by the lack of primary tutelage. In the circumstances it would be helpful to be aware of any Osborne users in this vacinity, for which purpose obviously my identity and address cannot remain confidential if you are to be in a position to assist me. Our present progress is slow due to the lack of a guiding hand, hence any assistance you could provide would be appreciated."
Yours sincerely,
S.W. Burn.
"Pandburn",
The Pocket,
BILLINUDGEL.NSW.2483.

[EDITORS NOTE]

Australia is a big country indeed, even for computers. There are many people out there who are isolated by these distances. If you are one of them, or if you have communication equipment and would like your name and address or phone number published please drop a line to the editor and we'll print them in a "DIRECTORY" section each issue.

==
FROM THE DEEP NORTH
==
22/11/83. [One step forward, one back]

TOWNSVILLE.QLD.

"I have been looking over the library listing sent out in Volume 1 Number 3 and find that for most of the items on the list the short titles give little or no indication of what the programs do. If you have on disk a short description of each program I woud like to get a copy."

[EDITORS NOTE]

As far as I know this information is on the "NEW" membership disk that is sent out when you join. If you are one of the older members who do not have this new disk please sent your old membership disk back to the "Disk librarian" and request a copy.

Please include return postage with your request and your "MEMBERSHIP" disk only or you will be charged $ 6.00 for the new material.
"I also enclose four, one line programs which some people may find useful. Their action by line number is -
40 Convert degrees, minuts, seconds (DDD.MMSS) to decimal degrees.
50 Decimal degrees to degrees, minuts, seconds. (DDD.MMSS)
60 Arcsine - answer in decimal degrees.
70 Arccos - answer in decimal degrees.
the listing follows."

[EDITORS NOTE]

These listings are very long so to get them into this section I have had to break them up. This break will be indicated by "é-ç" at the end of each section and éENDç for the end of the line.

```
40 DEF FNDEG(A)=INT(A)+(INT(100*A)-100 <->
   *INT(A))/60+(10000*A-100*INT(100*A) <->
   )/3600 <END>

50 DEF FNDMS(A)=INT(A)+INT((A-INT(A))* <->
   60)/100+(A-INT(A))*.36-.006*INT((A- <->
   INT(A))*60) <END>

60 DEF FNASN(X)=ATN(X/SQR(1-X*X))/.017 <->
   45329252# <END>

70 DEF FNACS(X)=ANT(SQR(1-X*X)/X)/.017 <->
   45329252# <END>
```

I am unable to give credit to the person who sent this listing in as the signature is unreadable, but thank you for your material.

==
OSBORNE JUNKIES
==
02/08/83. NOWRA.NSW.

"Greetings to all fellow Osborne junkies, how do you generate random number seeds ? Very early in the piece, I began to tire of giving the computer a random number seed [so] I began to experiment with various .... mystical formulas, which only confirmed my feeling that formulas, no matter how complicated, would still give me the same starting sequence each time I fired up the Osborne to commence a game.
(oops. I mean Adult relaxation)
After a deal of brain scratching, I decided to use one of the properties of the computer, that is it's ability to count quickly. So here is my effort in "random" number generation.

```
10 PRINT "Press <RETURN> to start."
20 IF INKEY$=CHR$(13) GOTO 50
30 R=R+1
40 GOTO 20
50 RANDOMIZE R
```

As you can see, the seed is based on the time taken to press return, which for all intents and purposes random."

R.J. Carlyle.

==
OSBORNE FOR SALE
==
11/08/83. [HOPE YOU HAVE SOLD
             IT BUT JUST INCASE]

Osborne 1 D/D & BUSINESS SOFTWARE (?)
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED.
(067) 69 8234.

And the reason for this loss of a good product ?

"...The computer was purchased early in the year from a local (DURI.NSW) dealer for the purpose of running specific rural applications software - which was to have been written by the dealer.
Unfortunately as is the case with many "naive and inexperienced computer purchases [and dealers it seems] our Osborne has rarely been used and need to sell it ... to purchase a rural system from another firm."

D. FOY.

[EDITORS NOTE]
I trust the same will not occur with your new computer. I know how you, and others feel when promises are not kept or software you pay good hard cash for won't work the way it should or not at all. If you have any problems with software that may not work properly, drop us a line. The problem may have been solved by other users or we can warn them not to buy the product.

==
ANSWER TO THE CALL
==
22/11/83. KALLANGUR, QLD 4503.

MEMO [to the] EDITOR,
Ian Napier mentioned your name in a note to me, echoing your plaintive cry for copy in the one issue of your newsletter that I have seen.
I have been a professional journalist for many years (too many) and I have often faced the same problem. Every editor does, except those on metropolitan dailies, who throw out 20 good stories for every one they use. Anyway, they have assistant editors, deputy, associate and news editors, copy-tasters and chief sub-editors to worry about things like that.
I've just knocked out the accompanying articles which may be of use to you. I haven't seen your earlier newsletters, so I could have touched on something you've already covered. If so, chop it out. Hack and change as you see fit. Professional journalists expect that. It's only the raw amateurs who start to squeal if anyone changes their perfect material.
As you will notice, I was scraping the bottom of the barrel to give you these articles. I've written two articles for "Your Computer" on the Osborne and they pretty well cleaned me out. One article has finally appeared in the November issue (I wrote it in March). The editor hardly touched it. Where he did, he managed to stuff it up. Somehow I'm transferring PIP from WordStar instead of onto the WordStar disk. Also, he has the daisy-wheel running slower in bi-directional mode. Ah, well, he's no worse than a lot of daily paper subs.
My other article may not appear at all. It's more of a generalised, rambling story on various computer aspects. I took the opportunity to give the Ausborne User Group a bit of a plug.
I received your latest newsletter. I trust you won't mind if I give you a few tips. They're all standard newspaper routines and should make your life easier.
...R Volume 1 Number 7.
The newsletter pages were out of order. Herbst's letter started on page 11 and jumped back to page 5. That can easily happen, but it is more likely to happen if the pages are

not numbered. Also, the lack of numbers makes it more difficult for the reader to work out what has gone wrong.

It is obvious that you are printing out all the articles, then sitting down with a paste-pot and trying to fit everything together. Don't let that worry you. Nearly every amateur publication goes together like that.

No professional would think of putting a newspaper, magazine or newsletter together without layout sheets. I'll scribble a rough layout of the first couple of pages of your newsletter, as it appeared, and send it with this disk to show you what is involved. I don't have your sheets but a quick outline on copy paper will give you the idea.

Make up a blank dummy of your 16 page newsletter but don't staple the sheets together. Number the pages before doing anything else. Then mark in advertisements, masthead, index, editorial and anything else that has a fixed position.

Mark the ads in a different color, say red, to make them stand out.

Now you can start work. Your job is to fill in the blank spaces. As you print out a story, measure it and mark it into place on the layout. Place your major stories first, if you can, and use the little ones as fills. You can do this over a period of weeks, as you get each story, and you can see your newsletter going together. You also know how many holes you still have to fill and the size of the stories you need.

The layout can be as rough or as artistic as you like. This way you know exactly what length and column measure you want before you print a file.

Don't be in any hurry to start pasting pages, because you will often find you want to change a story location, or another advert will come in. Throw out your dummy sheet, put a new one in and sketch your new layout. In fact, you can postpone your paste-up until the the dummy is complete. The paste-up can be done very quickly then. You don't need to do it. You can hand the dummy over to anyone to do the paste-up. I've done just that with magazines and had no trouble.

Also, you need to learn to cut stories to make them fit (and to make them readable in many cases). Don't assume that every word is sacrosanct. I haven't read the newsletter yet, but one instance stands out. I'd have chopped the last par on your first story, "What is a data-base?" I would never, under any circumstances, let one or two pars turn over onto another page.

If you need to fill a hole and the only story available is a bit too long, then cut it until it does fit. Either that, or cut the story above it or below it. That's the only possible way a newspaper can go together.

On a metropolitan daily, the chief sub-editor will mark a story into his layout, then toss it to one of his subs. He'll have marked it with type sizes, column measures and story length. If the instructions specify a length of 18cm and the story is 43cm long, then you cut it to 18cm --- not 16cm or 23cm. Because things never work out exactly, there's a make-up sub out in the composing room and his job is to make things fit. I've often had to chop pars out of stories at the last minute to fit them into a page.

You can understand why reporters regard subs as conscienceless butchers.

Sometimes the stories are too short. That's when you reach for the bank of fills of various lengths that have been set and held for the make-up sub to use as needed.

On a newsletter you have a lot more time and space, so you don't have to resort to the savage slashing that goes on in a metro-politan daily, but you still need to trim your stories to fit.

Identify each story with a one-word catchline in the top right-hand corner of every page and use that catchline to locate the stories on your layout. You chop the catchlines off at paste-up time. The first page of text is always numbered 2, while 1 is reserved for the headline. On computer setting, which is what you are doing and most newspapers do these days, that may not be necessary.

Make a point of breaking long paragraphs. For example, the paragraphs in my two stories are OK for an 80 column print-out, but they are too long for your narrow columns. I would expect you to break them into much shorter paragraphs. You might not need the standard newspaper routine of one sentence, one paragraph, but you certainly don't want five or six sentences to a paragraph. Besides, breaking the paragraphs down helps to fill space.

You're not limited to one line headings. Many's the time I've re-written a two-deck heading to a four-deck at the last minute to fill out a column. If you're using a two or three-deck heading, space with blank lines on the printout and do your final heading spacing with a knife.

Crossheads are a standard way of filling space. They're the series of little one or two line heads scattered through a newspaper story. They break the column up and they're expendable, so the sub usually puts one in about every five or six pars and leaves it to the compositor to toss out the ones he doesn't need. You could print them bold or underlined or both, well spaced. If you use bold, you'd better set all your headings in bold, otherwise the crossheads will dominate the page. One other point. Don't be afraid to use bastard measures. You are not locked into a standard column width. Maybe a one or two page story is awkward to fit in single or double column measure. Try altering your margins to give you two columns to the page. The columns don't have to be equal. Take a look at the odd measures used in any daily paper.

I've often found it is possible to get stories if you ask someone to write something on a specific subject. You have to think up the ideas. Look up your membership records. If you find a dentist or a teacher or any other profession, write and ask for an article on how he uses his Osborne. Does he use it in his profession? Why? With what effect? You won't get a story every time but you'll get a few. It's the old story with committees. People won't volunteer, but they will often help out if specifically asked and told exactly what is needed. Best of luck.
JACK SULLIVAN.

[EDITORS NOTE]

Thank you Jack for your interesting letter. I print it with our story on how we produce your newsletter, not to blow my own trumpet but to help others trying to tackle the same problems. A few comments though on some of the points made above.

1. Pages out of order.

    Agree with the comment on page numbering and they were marked for the printer but in the collating it seems they managed to mix up two of the pages. 2. Dummy copy.

    As you will see in the story we do one better than just a simple dummy copy.
    That comes first but is followed by a layout sheet and master paste up sheets.
    You see we don't just put together this newsletter but another monthly and a second monthly as well.

2. A lot more time and space ?

    Relative to a daily, yes. But that is their only job. As I said we produce several other publications, do several mailings and have a full time nursing course to complete this year. (This, overall takes priority)

3. Pasteup.

    The paste pot and scalpel are not my favorite way of doing a newsletter. What I need is the correct install procedure for our Brother HR 15 printer so we end up with columns printed as columns side by side and not the jaggered mess that results at present.
    If someone can help with this one we will be forever thankful. Wordstar gives us the chance to do the full format job on the screen, ready to print but when it reaches the paper it's a progressive mess.

4. Reference material.

    One of the best reference books I've found on the subject of printing is the "Style Manual for authors, editors and printers"

    Others are "The Graphics of Communication"

1984 is a year of growth and change for the computer industry and this newsletter. Some changes will be welcome others not but all are needed.
I look forward to a busy year in both this newsletter and the world.

--------------------- oOo -------------------

===
MUCH MORE IN 84
===

Below you will find listed the full (proposed) production schedule for the Ausborne newsletter in 1984. Those dates listed with an "*" are the proposed issues "if" we go second monthly.

This would be the second biggest change for 84. The first is that we will be going to full typesetting from the Feb issue. With the added costs and time needed for production and the need to keep it free to members this change to second monthly should allow a better and more comprehensive coverage of issues effecting you.

If you have any feedback on this please drop a line to "The Editor" at our post box.

There is also a list of proposed topics and titles for 84. We list them here not just to let you know what is comming in later months, or as a guide for production, but in the hope that you will be using one of the products or programs listed and be able to write somthing about it for publication. I do not have all of these programs or products and must rely on you to write the material so others may be able to decide the yea or nay of buying it for themselves.

It does not stop there however. Feel free to drop us a line at any time with suggestions, hints, ideas for new material, problems, successes and failures. Stories about your dealings with computer companies, dealers, soft/firm/hardware suppliers and the like, be they good or bad.

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER - HELP TO FILL IT.

--------------------- oOo -------------------

POSTAGE PAID

AUSTRALIA

119

RMB
BUNGENDORE

2621

660 2400

HARTWORK

JOHN J. RIGBY J.P.

36 PARRAMATTA RD, GLEBE (CNR. ROSS ST)

WEST WORD

71 Woodbury Street,
NORTH ROCKS.NSW.2151.
Tele (02) 871 8853.

WEST WORD

71 Woodbury Street,
NORTH ROCKS.NSW.2151.
Tele (02) 871 8853.

SUPER SPECIALS

[FOR AUSBORNE MEMBERS ONLY]

CONTROL DATA DISKETTES:- 5.25" Soft sectored, single sided, Double density $ 28.10 per box (+ tax)
(add $ 2.20 package & posting -3 or more boxes $ 5.00 courier delivery)

PAPER:- 70GSM watermarked wordprocessing paper, super fine, keen edge,
tractor feed, (min order 2500 sheets) $ 17.81 per 1000 sheets

ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT
CONTROL DATA DISKETTE		
PAPER (min 2500 sheets)		
Postage ($2.20 / $5.00)		
Tax		
TOTAL		